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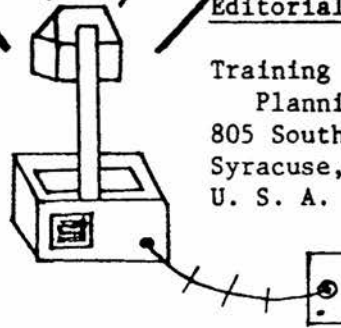
TIPS

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Because the TI has been heavily occupied with several big projects and workshops, we have fallen behind. Of course, when this happens, copy piles up too, not to mention that we always have more copy than we actually publish. Therefore, this will be the second time we will do a triple issue. The theme will be our usual December issue topics: poverty--mostly as it relates to oppression; the prison, crime and punishment scene; religion in society and its interface with human service; issues of war and peace; seasonal news, and miscellaneous coverage.

Poverty & the Poor

*On 21 February 1995, the PBS TV program "Frontline" broadcast a segment entitled "The Begging Game." It examined the lives of several people who panhandle on the streets of New York City, and was specifically interested in whether the people were really hard up, or whether they were lying in order to get money. The impression created by the program was that there was at least some deception by most panhandlers--which we can believe, since the street culture generally is one where one's real story is never told truthfully, where aliases and pseudonyms abound, and which abounds with characters who are anywhere from suspicious to devious to outright pathological liars.

However, the program inadvertently illustrated many points about SRV. For instance, various panhandlers talked about how they "dressed the part" in order to elicit money from passers-by. One young girl said she had a panhandling outfit which was a little ratty, because people would not think she was needy if she dressed rich. Another man used a wheelchair and pretended to be crippled, even though he could walk perfectly well, because he thought people would feel sorrier for him. One man who had been in the army in Korea identified himself as a Vietnam veteran who had won a Purple Heart award, because he said before he told people he had been in Vietnam and been wounded, he hardly collected anything, but his earnings jumped dramatically when he gave out that story.

One woman said she thought people gave her money because she reminded them of their own mother or grandmother. Indeed, this particular woman had befriended a well-to-do commuter from the suburbs who thought of her precisely in that way. This same woman, who lived on the streets, had developed many relationships with other street people whom she referred to as "my family," and had adopted a protective relationship with a younger street woman who was addicted to drugs and infected with AIDS. She said she felt she was this young woman's "mother," and the reporter noted that this woman had established a role for herself on the streets, illustrating the SRV point about role

highest among prosperous nations in regard to inequality of income (Time, 30/1/95).

In both the US and Britain, income inequalities (i.e. what the people on top and those on the bottom are earning) are greater than at any time in the past 50 years. However, the US has double to triple the poverty rate of major European countries. In the US, one polarization that has taken place is that between two-earner households and the jobless single-parent families. Relatively few single mothers can manage to earn good incomes. Economic movement is most likely to take place among people in the middle of the wealth scale, but it is becoming increasingly harder in the US for people to climb out of poverty (The Economist, 5 Nov. 94; source item from Michael Kendrick).

Altogether, in 1992, the poor in the US conveyed to the rich \$500 billion more than the rich themselves received from their labors. To keep the poor from starving to death, the government took \$200 billion in taxes from the \$500 billion that the rich got and returned it to the poor through social and welfare programs. To make sure that the purchasing power of the poor would not evaporate and thereby destroy the economy, the government also borrowed \$300 billion more from the rich and channeled it to the poor. Altogether, this left the rich \$300 billion richer, the poor almost broke even, and the government lost \$300 billion that was added to the deficit. In simple words and approximate figures, this is how things work according to some authorities, and the budget deficit can be considered as more or less the amount of money that the rich get to keep after taxes, and that future taxpayers must earn and pay--with much interest! (Malcolm Berko Column, Business First, 19/4/93; source item from Irene Ward).

*The entirety of the federal program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children is only \$12.5 billion, but aid to dependent business corporations is more than \$104 billion a year (Casa Cry, 3/95). According to some estimates, US businesses receive \$85 billion annually in direct federal subsidies alone, yet as efforts are underfoot to cut programs for the poor, we may see at the same time increases in subsidies for the rich (Newsweek, 2 Oct. 95). While many programs for the poor are very badly in need of some reform, it is galling to observe an overt warfare against these, and a covert transfer of wealth to the richest.

*Changes in New York State tax laws have meant that people in the top income bracket now pay less taxes, and those on the bottom pay more (SHJ, 1 Jan. 95). It is amazing how the transfer of wealth that has been going on for several decades in the US is recapitulated on all levels of government.

*In Manhattan, the income gap between the rich and the poor is greater than anywhere else in the US, and greater than it is in Third World countries such as Guatemala (Casa Cry, 3/95).

*The fact that a smaller percentage of US income tax returns from people with incomes of \$25,000-50,000 get audited than from people making below \$25,000 is yet another index of the transfer of wealth from lower to higher strata (SHJ, 23/5/94). Apparently, squeezing extra money out of the lowest income group is easier for the US tax service than squeezing it out of more affluent people who are more apt to be able to take a stand against the IRS and to have recourse to lawyers (AP in SHJ, 20/3/91). In fact, a proposal to spend an additional \$76 million to catch rich tax cheats was whittled down to a puny \$6 million. Perhaps President Bush had something to do with it because a 1984 audit forced him to pay an additional \$200,000 in taxes, interest and penalties (Time, 1 April 91).

*We alert our readers to the fact that two contemporary phenomena are going very closely hand-in-hand with each other: the transfer of wealth from the lower and lower middle classes to the highest classes, and the withdrawal of health care from poor and elderly people. One manifestation of the latter is that more and more American retirees are receiving fewer and fewer health benefits from their former employers.

*Asian-Americans have the highest median household income in the US, followed by "white," "Latino," and "black" families (SHA, 12 June 94).

*The United Way commonly projects an image of being composed of agencies that serve very needy people, including of course the poor. However, this is often not the case. For instance, a great deal of money may go back to essentially middle class people, as when scouting is subsidized in which usually only a minority of children are from among the poorer classes. This was underlined by a study which found that in Chicago, only about 3% of the poor benefitted from services of agencies funded by the United Way (Responsive Philanthropy, Winter 87; source item from Doug Mouncey).

*People who never even as much as smelled a pig or touched a cow traded \$400 billion worth of so-called "futures" (mostly farm products) at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in 1993.

*In 1960, the average company executive in the US earned about 14 times what the average worker did, but by 1992, the gap had grown to 157 times (Z Magazine, 5/95).

*During a strike at the Hormel meat packing company in Minnesota, the company president's salary was boosted by \$200,000 while the union wages were slashed 23% (Newsweek, 13/4/92).

*Jacqueline Bouvier Onassis started her career as a lowly news woman. By the time she died, she had amassed \$200 million.

*After actress Kim Basinger declared bankruptcy, she was permitted to keep three different homes on both coasts of the US, and to spend \$31,000 a month (SHJ, 8 Jan. 95).

*Once the US middle class is drastically reduced, and the country freezes into two major classes (hereditarily poor and hereditarily affluent), the capacity to arrest or even reverse the current trend will diminish. There will not be enough voters in the middle to vote for higher taxes for the rich, and the poor will be too apathetic and incompetent to use the political process on their behalf, despite their large numbers.

*The world's 358 known billionaires have a combined net worth equal to that of the bottom 45% of the world's population (Nation, 19/12/94).

*In Latin America, the term desprofesionalisados has been used in recent decades in order to refer to academics and professionals who left their careers in order to live more like peasants and other oppressed groups.

*"The Great Judgment Morning" is an old hymn going back at least to L.L. Picket in 1894. Relevant to our topic is the following portion.

I dreamed that the great judgment morning had dawned, and the trumpet had blown;
I dreamed that the nations had gathered to judgment before the white throne;
From the throne came a bright shining angel and stood on the land and the sea,
And swore with his hand raised to heaven, that time was no longer to be.

The rich man was there, but his money had melted and vanished away;
A pauper he stood in the judgment, his debts were too heavy to pay;
The great man was there, but his greatness when death came was left far behind,
The angel that opened the records, not a trace of his greatness could find.

The widow was there with the orphans, God heard and remembered their cries;
No sorrow in heaven forever, God wiped all the tears from their eyes...

The Gulf Between Rich and Poor Nations

What the uppers are doing to the lowers in their own nations parallels what the rich nations are doing to the poor ones.

*A German engineer who specializes in hydraulics determined that among all the large-scale multi-purpose water resource projects (e.g., large dams) in developing countries in the world in recent years, not a single one worked in a way which benefited the more lowly people, even in an indirect trickle-down fashion, either up-stream or down-stream of the projects. Yet even at this moment, 4 million people will have to be resettled by such projects funded by the World Bank alone.

Typical and usually unanticipated problematic effects of large-scale economic development programs are the gross national product grows--but at the same time so does the national debt, and overcrowding and deterioration of cities, and a widening gap between rich and poor, take place.

*One of the regional Sudanese presidents said, "If we have to drive our people to paradise with sticks, we will do so for their good and the good of those after us," referring to certain economic development projects which may actually end up doing more harm than good (Naudascher, 1995).

*The new president of the World Bank is also on the board of the Population Council that has been pushing abortion and contraception in poor countries (Communiqué, 16/6/95).

*Most people in Brazil are too poor to drink the coffee that is grown there. Instead, they buy American-made instant coffee, mostly Nescafe (CR, 12/94).

*The fashion business is a big-time oppressor of the poor of poor nations. Much of its products are made in the Third World or by poor immigrants.

Homelessness & the Welfare Helter Skelter Shelter System

*Skid row apparently got its name from a street on a hill in Seattle, down which timber was "skidded" to the docks. The word hobo allegedly comes from hoe-boys, i.e., migrant farm workers who hoed the fields.

*Here is some interesting information about the homeless. Half the people who live in homeless shelters in New York City test positive for TB. At least one-third of homeless women get raped. One way in which the homeless in shelters keep their shoes from being stolen while they are asleep is to lift up their beds and put one shoe under each of two legs so that they will wake up if someone tries to make off with them.

*The City of Miami went to war against a group of homeless people living under a highway overpass, and snatched and destroyed their bed rolls, clothes and medicine. The good news is that a federal judge held the city in contempt of court for this act and ordered it to pay a penalty to a shelter for the homeless (Time, 1 April 91).

*Atlanta has waged a long warfare on street people, which will probably intensify in connection with the 1996 summer Olympics there, when many people will want their streets cleansed. Below is a song, "Out in the Street," composed by Atlanta troubadour Gerard McHugh.

Have you ever been without a home?
Have you heard loneliness' solitary tone?
Have you felt the cold quaking in your bones?
Have you ever been without a home?

Have you ever been without a meal
Walking past the restaurants offering all their deals,
Hands trembling with hunger? Do you know how it feels?
Have you ever been without a meal?

Have you pounded the pavement with no destination,
Devoured by futility, failure and frustration
With no friend to look you in the eye
And say "I care if you live or if you die."?

Have you ever been without a bed,
Weary to the bone with no place to lay your head?
Dead upon your feet, no home and nothing to eat,
Have you ever been out in the street?

*We were amazed to learn that the US government was handing over \$8.7 million to service agencies in New York City to help people who live in the city's subway system and underground water tunnels. Several thousand people are believed to live there, which is something one expects to see on a fantasy show on TV. Secondly, one would think that at least some of these people merely need the money to rent a room or an apartment, but instead the money will go to the agencies (AP in SHJ, 18/11/94).

*The US military was mandated to turn unused buildings over for use by the homeless, but instead has been busily burning them down left and right by the hundreds. By 1994, it had turned over very few buildings to the homeless, and one of the few it did turn over was an old sewage treatment facility just south of the District of Colombia (Newsweek, 17/10/94).

*Gaylord, an Illinois firm that makes office and library equipment and containers, has designed a foldable and portable cardboard shelter that is about 1m high and wide, and is water resistant. Gaylord hopes to mass produce these as "porta-sleepers." Lesley Chenoweth, who sent us the news clipping in 12/93, called it "the capitalist solution to homelessness."

*For the first time, Israeli citizens are dying homelessly on the streets from the cold (AP in SHJ, 8 Dec. 94).

Slavery

*Slaves were still being brought from Africa and sold in the US slave states at least as late as 1858 (Smithsonian, 11/93).

*De facto slave (forced) child labor is reportedly rampant in Asia, involving more than 100 million children, and perhaps as many as 146 million. Work days of 18 hours are reported to be common. Many of these children produce quality goods, such as carpets, that fetch high prices in the west (AP in SHJ, 19/9/95).

*There are reports that in the disintegrating social milieu of China, the slave trade has begun to flourish again. Tens of thousands of women and children allegedly get kidnapped each year to be sold elsewhere, sometimes at illegal marriage markets, which is probably the least of the evils that could befall the captives. There are entire gangs specializing in this enterprise, and the government has reinstituted the death penalty for this offense (AW, 17/8/91).

*An estimated 10,000 Burmese women are transported into, or via, Thailand and forced into prostitution (AP in SHJ, 8 March 94).

Crime & Punishment

*We are getting very contradictory messages whether crime in the US is increasing or decreasing. Parties that want things to look good report decreases, other parties report increases. For instance, the liberal intelligentsia that is extensively responsible for the collapse of values in Western culture has also been trying to cover up the effects of this collapse. A sociologist at George

Washington University proclaimed that "the best scientific evidence we have clearly shows there is no increase in crime or violent crime in the last 20 years," and that the most dangerous place to be is not on the streets but with one's family--which sounds delicious coming from people who have been making war against the family. These people claim that it is politicians who have dramatized crime so that they can be against something (AP in SHJ, 19/5/94).

For several decades, the FBI had been accused of inflating crime figures, but now we suspect that it is covering up the true figures, as by claiming that 90% of Americans are safer today than they have been during the past two decades (AP in SHJ, 21/5/94). There is good reason to now try to fudge the data the other way in order to project the image of the empire still being in control.

Since we do not see a decline in the dynamics that would lead to violence, we wonder whether reported declines--if they are true--are due to the imposition of more severe sentences on repeat offenders who very likely would commit more violent crimes if they got off with less prison time. If that is what is happening, then the people who said that putting these offenders in prison longer would not work are wrong. Another possibility is that "normative violence" has gone up but is less reported because it is so commonplace. For instance, shootings have become such a casual thing that when gun fire broke out during a ball at a Syracuse community center, leaving a wall bullet-pocked, nobody bothered to report the event to the police. Even when the police finally got word about it, participants at the ball refused to talk about it (SHJ, 10 Sept. 95). After a street shooting in Syracuse, a neighbor woman said that the reason she did not call the police was that "around here you don't pay that much attention to that stuff. I heard it and figured it was just somebody else playing with a gun" (SHJ, 30/7/94).

*A high police official in Syracuse said that Syracuse citizens are not too concerned about hearing gun shots in the city, but they sure do go hyper when they hear boom boxes, and therefore, seven extra police officers will be taken away from other duties and assigned to one of the most violent shooting sections of town to do something about the 20,000 calls from there(!) about radios being played too loud (SHJ, 24/5/94).

*Considering the age curves, and other factors, experts are predicting a "blood bath" of murders in the next decade in the US (SHJ, 18/2/95).

*Delivering pizzas used to be a job for earning a few dollars quickly but now, robbing pizza deliverers has become even easier and quicker. In fact, in some cities, delivering pizzas has become the most dangerous job in town. In Toledo, 78 pizza drivers were robbed in 15 months, often being clubbed, shot or otherwise assaulted (SHJ, 25/4/94).

*In California, 23% of teachers and 11% of students are victims of crime in or near their schools, and 22% of male students have carried weapons to school (SHJ, 22/12/93).

*US taxpayers pay 80% of the cost of treating gunshot wounds (SHJ, 22/12/93). This is one of many reasons crime is so costly.

*Experts are beginning to believe that an increasing number of crimes are being committed merely in order to draw attention. A good example are the many people who have launched some kind of attack on the White House. Some authorities have called the motive for this type of crime "the attraction of the theater." Again, we would suspect that it is mostly empty externalistic people who would seek a counterfeit of substance in these kinds of acts.

*CBS TV "60 Minutes" (22/1/95) reported that one federal prison was being constructed at the cost of \$1 billion by firms that were almost 100% controlled by the mafia--across the street from a federal building housing the teams that ended up investigating the crime involved in the construction. Relatedly, New York State purchased \$184 million worth of goods and services during an 18-month period from businesses controlled by the mafia--amounting to 20 times what the state spends fighting organized crime. At the same time, many politicians and political parties received

vast amounts of money in campaign contributions from mob-linked entities, with money going even-handedly to both Republicans and Democrats (AP in SHJ, 14/11/93). This underlines once again how crime is simply too good for politicians to seriously want to do something about it.

*For years, the police had encouraged people to install home alarm systems, but these systems have been going off on their own all the time, and each time police have to make a futile run to the respective home, and because an alarm is treated as a crime in progress until it is determined to be otherwise, a minimum of at least two officers must respond, and for large facilities, more. In one police district around Syracuse, police responded to 4,993 such privately-owned emergency alarms, but only 27 were for real. All this has overwhelmed the police departments. This is actually a very representative sample of what has been happening with these alarm systems world-wide. One police response now is to charge a fee for false alarms (SHJ, 20/1/95).

*Offering youths in high crime areas the opportunity to play basketball at midnight has been termed a "proven crime stopper" (Time, 29/8/94).

*Hi-tech thieves stole the cellular phone numbers of the New York Police Commissioner and raked up big bills making calls all over the world (AP in SHJ, 23/9/94).

*We have no data to prove it, but from scanning the news media, we are under the impression that families and friends of crime victims have increasingly made it their business to be present at the trials of the perpetrators, and that their presence has been resulting in the handing out of more severe--but also more just--sentences. However, there has been a dramatic drop in the correlation between length of sentence and length of time actually served.

*A man confessed to setting a fire in California that destroyed almost 400 homes and caused \$528 million in damage. However, it turned out that at the time the fire was set, the man was in prison for robbery (AP in SHJ, 3 Oct. 94).

*One peculiar symptom of the breakdown of the judicial system in the US is that for years now, it has been prison inmates themselves who have been launching avalanches of court suits that have contributed to the breakdown in the judicial system. In 1993, US courts were dealing with 29,000 such suits, or about one for every two state prisoners. Most of these prisoners are guilty as hell, most of them of very serious offenses, and the overwhelming majority of their lawsuits is frivolous and without substance. For instance, one prisoner sued for \$1.5 million when his private television went on the blink. Many of these suits end up in federal court. The NY State Attorney General said that 20% of the time of his staff was spent defending suits from jailhouse lawyers, at a cost of \$15 million a year. While New Yorkers are notoriously more litigious than other citizens, a similar situation prevails in much of the rest of the country. One prisoner even sued because his prison used razor wire on its fences, because this would be a hazard to any prisoner trying to escape (SHA, 8 May 94). This sort of thing could almost turn one against prisoners. Of course, one reason prisoners file so many suits is that some prisons teach prisoners courses in the law, against which there ought to be a law.

*The cost of administering welfare cases varies from a low of \$62 per case per year in West Virginia to a high of \$323 in Alaska (and \$286 in DC), reflecting largely degrees of civic honesty and bureaucratization (AP in SHJ, 9 Feb. 95).

*We continue to note that welfare fraud is not the bagatelle some people try to make it seem. It can be a heavy burden especially on the local taxes of a particular jurisdiction--usually an urban one. One Baltimore family received 14 social security and welfare checks a month, for a total of \$46,000 annually. A man on welfare in NY City owned a Lexus, a Cadillac, a Lincoln Continental, and was buying a \$5 million mansion (SHJ, 7 Oct. 94). Three welfare clerks and 95 recipients got in cahoots and stole \$2.2 million from the New York City welfare system via a loophole in the

computer system. One of the recipients collected over 200 welfare payments totaling \$353,000 (AP in SHJ, 12 May 95). A woman who does not have any children has spent 7 years forging welfare claims, claiming at various times 73 children, including 11 sets of twins, stealing a total of \$450,000. Hopefully, this could only have happened in New York City (AP in SHJ, 20/5/94).

*Some US states have a peculiar legal limbo for people who are mentally retarded and are habitual serious, or even dangerous, legal offenders, committing offenses such as dozens of instances of arson over many years, burglary, pedophilia and even armed robbery. Such persons may be ruled incompetent to stand trial and therefore cannot be sent to prison, and the law may not permit their involuntary commitment into some form of custody. Some such retarded persons are smart enough to have learned that they can get away with just about everything--but have been unintelligent enough to brag about it. Theoretically, some such problems might be handled if a person were put under guardianship and the guardian could make dispositions against the will of the person, such as placing the person into a very tightly supervised residence. However, legal jurisdictions all over the developed world are moving more and more away from guardianship provisions. Clearly, something needs to be done that protects society while doing the least amount of harm and the most amount of good to such retarded persons (source clipping unfortunately from Nancy Killam). One law draft that authorized involuntary commitment of retarded people charged with "serious felonies" would still leave unresolved the problem of retarded people who commit very problematic lesser crimes (source item from Gordon DuBois).

*A Florida man who had been a criminal all his life demonstrated the moral continuity of the soul when, at age 94 and on probation for a sexual crime against a child, he was caught in a theft with an unloaded gun. He pleaded to be sent to prison instead of a nursing home, saying that if he went to prison, he might get out, but not if he were sent to a nursing home (AP in Press & Sun-Bulletin, 6 Nov. 94; source item from Susan Ruff).

*We strongly urge readers never to voluntarily agree to stand in a police lineup. Research has shown that there is a relatively high likelihood that one will be wrongly identified as the perpetrator that people are looking for (SHA, 12 Feb. 95). This is particularly the case when the identification is made by the victim, or by a witness who had some kind of stake in the victim.

*A cover article in Newsweek (27/3/95) declared that "violent crime, like overeating and drunkenness, has clear biological roots." After all, even a former director of the US National Institute of Mental Health had interpreted criminality as a "medical disorder" that might be predicted through blood testing and prevented through chemical treatment. Amazing!

A 1993 book entitled The Psychopathology of Crime presents yet another ultra-naive reductionism of the nature of crime by trying to demonstrate that, as the title suggests, crime is a mental disorder comparable to schizophrenia or neurosis.

*"The greatest crimes are caused by surfeit, not by want. Men do not become tyrants so as not to suffer cold." Aristotle

The Police Crack

We have a stack of clippings on police brutality. Police brutality is always high, by the nature of police work and whom it tends to attract, but new factors have been entering in. Now, police work would be difficult for even a paragon human. Police officers constantly face ever-increasing depravity, and correctly have to view themselves as constantly in danger of life. This makes for a very thin line between being civil and being defensive. This wears down a lot of police officers. On top of that, police and security work tends to attract psychopathic personalities to begin with. The meaner police officers engage in a lot of deathmaking of lowly people, handicapped ones, homeless ones, and powerless ones. People's trust in police has also been severely undermined by police scandals, evidence forging and endless cover-ups. As one headline put it, "war on crime

could turn to war on citizens" (SHA, 28/5/95).

Just to clean a police car is an ugly job. People vomit, defecate, urinate and bleed into them. Even at \$350 per cleaning, the jobs are going begging in Syracuse (SHJ, 22/2/95).

*During the early 1990s, US police departments began to replace the time-honored revolvers of their police officers with semiautomatic pistols. The reason is that these can be fired faster, hold more bullets, and can be reloaded more rapidly. This diminished the police's disadvantage against the increasing number of criminals with fully automatic weapons, i.e., usually miniature machine guns. However, it was fully to be expected that the police will use whatever weapons they are given in unintended ways. For instance, when two crooks held up a store in New York in 2/95, eight officers converged and fired 125 shots at them, with one officer alone firing 45, even though the crooks did not shoot once. In another shoot-out with a gunman, 18 officers fired 247 bullets, which killed not only the gunman, but also a bystander. It appears that once the police officers get rattled and start shooting, they cannot help themselves and they cannot stop (AP in SHJ, 23/2/95). In fact, in one shoot-out, a police officer admitted that he kept firing with his eyes closed at one point. Our educated prediction is that if police were given guns that had a thousand-round magazine, they would hold down the trigger till the magazine was empty.

*Police officers are cracking in many different ways. For instance, a 17-year veteran of the Auburn City Police in New York State was arrested after driving his car drunkenly down the street, firing his service semiautomatic handgun into the air (SHJ, 18/2/95).

*It has become normative among US police to beat people with their flashlights. Obviously, they need to be given a type of flashlight that tempts them less to use it as a weapon.

*In a single year, 11 New York City police officers committed suicide (SHJ, 16/11/94). Between crime on one side, and totally schizophrenic and humanly unmanageable rules governing their behavior on the other side, even tough police officers who are not a bit psychopathic are cracking left and right.

*In several Latin American countries, police and vigilantes are at war with the homeless, street children, homosexuals, prostitutes and drug users, and kill as many of them as they can get away with within what has been named "social cleansing" (CS, 1 Dec. 93).

The Jail and Prison Scene

*When the Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania began to be used in 1829, it was thought important that prisoners should have no idea of the physical layout of the facility, and that this would make control easier and escape more difficult. Accordingly, prisoners were only moved around with hoods over their heads. Interestingly, the idea that a prisoner's knowledge of the layout of a prison is dangerous has persisted to this day, and neither the US Federal Bureau of Prisons nor many state prison bureaucracies will release plans of their prisons (Johnston, 1994, p. 110). The placement of masks or hoods on prisoners when moving them about has also been widely imitated all over the world, to this day.

*In early 1994, the US prison population reached one million for the first time, or 1 per 260 of the population, and an even bigger ratio counting only adults. In addition, 440,000 were in local jails (AP in SHJ, 23/10/94). In New York City, space is running out for "classrooms, jail cells and homeless shelters" (AP in SHJ, 30/9/94).

*In many jails and prisons, inmates are permitted to make so much noise as to drive other inmates virtually insane. Apparently, this is permitted for several unexplicated rationales: (a) It symptomizes the widespread loss of control of personnel in prisons. (b) It is part of the process of mortification and disintegration of the personality that has become part of the strategy of the US prison system. (c) It probably also symptomizes the personnel's attitude that the prisoners are

animals, and we know from the literature on deviancy that in such cases, people will actually elicit animalistic behaviors from those whom they view in the animal role in order to confirm and justify their stereotyping to themselves and observers.

*Just how insecure even the most secure US prisons are, mostly because prison personnel are corrupt, was revealed yet once again when a man executed in Virginia was found to have a loaded pistol and 18 bullets in his death row cell, concealed in his typewriter. Even then, it was only found because the man told his lawyer about it shortly before he was put to death (SHJ, 31/5/95).

*Private construction and ownership of prisons has led to some peculiar entrepreneurial practices. Who would have thought that American Express would invest millions of dollars in a prison construction project, and that General Electric would invest heavily in a private prison company operating in Tennessee? (Thursday's Obligation, Summer '95).

*We reported before, with derision, the Boston Globe (12 Jan. 91) headline that proclaimed, "Judge: RI prison crowding solved." California prisons were at 184% of capacity in 1993 (SHJ, 1/1/94).

*This is an update on an item that we first reported in the 2/90 issue of TIPS. Namely, there has been a significant new development in US prisons in that with increasing frequency, prisoners hoard up feces, urine, blood or whatever else disgusting they can find, and hurl it at guards that pass by in front of their doors, or at guards who open their cell doors. This is, of course, a particular problem in those prisons that are built with open front metal grills. One prisoner with AIDS had saved up feces, urine and semen, and when a nurse came by to give him medication, he threw the concoction in her face so it got into her mouth, eyes and hair. Apparently, this practice is due to three reasons: prisoners are getting meaner and less socialized, there are more mentally disordered prisoners, and apparently it is not as easy for guards to beat up on prisoners as it used to be, or more prisoners would be afraid to do such things. When all this got started, guards in some prisons began to wear raincoats. In some prisons, very elaborate plastic shields have been erected in front of areas from which prisoners might throw filthy things at guards.

One should imagine what all of this means to guards. It probably increases even further their loathing for prisoners and their desire to see harm done to them. At the same time, it is hard to see why anyone would become a guard unless that was the best-paying job around, or they could not get another job.

*A New York State report said that juvenile gangs de facto run the state's juvenile prisons (SHJ, 9 March 95).

*At the local jail in Syracuse, health inspectors found so many insects in the food supplies that they made the jail throw away 2,000 pounds of it.

*It was said in 1995 that the federal prison in Marion, Illinois, was the contemporary version of what formerly Alcatraz (in San Francisco Bay) had been, namely, the most severe prison in the federal system.

*When boxer Mike Tyson was released in 4/95 from 3 years of imprisonment for raping a young woman, we learned that he had been kept in the "Indiana Youth Center." In Syracuse, a new local jail was rather euphemistically named the "Justice Center."

*On the grounds of a state institution for the mentally retarded in the Adirondack mountains of northern New York, the state started in 1994 to operate a peculiar facility with the name Center for Intensive Treatment, interpreted to be both a group home and a jail. It houses 36 men, in four pods of nine each, who have committed relatively serious crimes. The facility is almost totally computer-controlled. It cost \$194,000 per resident to build and, as of 1994, \$120,000 per resident to operate.

This compares to \$100,000 and \$30,000 respectively for the ordinary prisoner. Residents carry a plastic computer card, and the more progress they make, the more doors their computer card will open to them in the facility or give them access to other amenities. The facility is interpreted as being state-of-the-art, and already people from elsewhere in North America, including Ontario, are considering imitating it (Albany Times Union, 1/95; source item from Chris Ringwald).

*One of our street people friends recently announced that he would like to become a guard in the new local jail so that "he didn't have to spend so much time there."

*We were trying to think of what would make "the perfect prison song," and were hard put to think of any one improving on the combination of doleful melody--so well matched with the lyrics--of "Down in the Valley," also known as "Birmingham Jail," a song probably known to most older Americans. Can anyone think of an improvement? However, there is a problem in that there are so many versions of the song. The original version may have been about Barbourville jail in Barbourville, Kentucky.

Down in the valley,
The valley so low,
Hang yore head over,
Hear the wind blow.
Hear the wind blow, love,
Hear the wind blow,
Hang yore head over,
Hear the wind blow.

(Some versions have here
Down in the valley, valley so low,
Late in the evenin' hear that train blow.
Hear that train blow, love, hear that train blow.
Late in the evenin' hear that train blow.)

If you don't love me,
Love whom you please,
But throw yore arms round me,
Give my heart ease.
Give my heart ease, dear,
Give my heart ease,
Throw yore arms round me,
Give my heart ease.

Down in the valley
Walking between,
Telling our story,
Here's what it sings--
Roses of sunshine,
Vi'lets of dew,
Angles in heaven,
Know I love you.

Build me a castle,
Forty feet high,
So I can see her
As she goes by.
As she goes by, dear,
As she goes by,
So I can see her,
As she goes by.

Bird in a cage, love,
Bird in a cage,
Dying for freedom,
Ever a slave.
Ever a slave, dear,
Ever a slave,
Dying for freedom,
Ever a slave.

Roses love sunshine, violets love dew,
Angles in heaven know I love you.
Write me a letter, send it by mail.
Send it in care of the Birmingham jail.
Birmingham jail, love, Birmingham jail.
Send it in care of the Birmingham jail.

Judicial Killing

*The people who pursued the reinstatement of the death penalty in various states concluded that by specifying that it would be by lethal injection, they will have a better chance of overriding court challenges. Apparently, the medicalized image of these injections detoxifies the killing, even though it is probably a more agonizing death than either decapitation, drop-hanging, electrocution, and probably even shooting (e.g., AP in SHJ, 27/12/94).

*Now here is a real "choice": As of 3/95, 14 US states give condemned prisoners at least one alternative option of how they want to be put to death.

*At a cost of \$380,000, the US federal prison system has built a very special building to be used for no other purpose than to kill prisoners in it, namely, at its federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana. The victim gets strapped to a table that is shaped like a cross, with both arms outstretched--unlike in many other death chambers where only one arm is stretched out (Indianapolis Star, 3/23/95; source item from Joe Osburn).

*People keep saying that the death penalty serves no useful purpose. However, we have noted that it seems to be one of the most rehabilitational treatments there is, insofar as at least in the US, criminals who are condemned to death almost invariably become very religious somewhere along the line before they are actually put to death. Even people who have committed the most heinous crimes commonly say wonderful religious things just before they are put to death. Perhaps as Mark Twain said, perceiving that their being put to death is almost inevitable "wonderfully concentrates their minds." So may even the threat of death. One man serving a life-term for murder even authored a book of daily meditations, distributed by the Episcopalian Church (copy furnished by Doug Mouncey). However, we are opposed to the death penalty despite its high rehabilitation rate.

Religion in Society

*There are ever-more-powerful circles in US society, and in other developed nations as well, that view any kind of declared religion as anywhere between a personal or social pathology to a threat. For instance, Time magazine linked the Oklahoma City bombing to "far-right thought," and then listed examples of such: "conspiracy theorists influenced by the John Birch Society, people who believe that the US constitution guarantees the right to own arms, tax protestors"--and "Christian home-schoolers" (1 May 95). Also, we would call the so-called Christian Coalition in the US a conservative group, but Time (24/7/95) referred to it as a "radical-right" group that "contributes to a mood of popular hysteria" about pornography on the computer Internet. Above, we used the term "declared religion" because everyone has a religion and god, but the undeclared and unrecognized ones are vastly more common than the declared ones. A reminder that materialism, capitalism, constructivism, multi-culturalism, individualism, the rights movement, self-determination, etc., are all religions.

*In China, young people are said to aspire for what they call "the eight big things": a color TV, a refrigerator, a stereo, a camera, a motorcycle, a modern furniture suite, a washing machine and an electric fan. This shows both how much the values of modernism are becoming embraced throughout the world, and how the world is thereby moving towards a uniquely and remarkably homogeneous culture (Newsweek, 1/12/86).

*According to Newsweek (21/3/94), no person has been applauded as relentlessly and as lengthily over time as--Frank Sinatra.

*A phenomenally large number of people faint at rock concerts. At one such concert in Berlin, 400 girls fainted. Scientists attributed the fainting to being pressed in on by a crowd which contributes to a decrease in circulation, and to screaming which does the same (Discover, 10/95). However, we would add that insofar as rock concerts are the equivalent of religious revival meetings, the same religious excitement that contributes to fainting at revivals probably also plays a role. After all, one rock star said quite accurately, "See, we have made a religion out of f----g music" (Newsweek, 22/5/95).

*Wise people through the ages have pointed out that the things with which one surrounds oneself and which one "handles" somehow enter into one's very being and become part of one's identity. For instance, in the 1985 film "Witness," about a Philadelphia cop chased by gangsters

who hides out in an Amish community, an elderly Amish farmer explains to his grandson that he must not handle a gun because a gun is meant for the taking of life (a thing abhorrent to the Amish), and "whatever a man takes into his hand, he takes into his heart."

Despite this wisdom, when people today are confronted with an analysis and evidence of the dangers of technological gadgets, and especially computerization, they often glibly respond either that there are no such dangers, or that the dangers are exaggerated, or that the only people who object to computers are primitive Luddites, and that anyway, people are not in danger of being controlled by their computers. Yet so often, one finds that despite the rhetoric, so many people are indeed controlled, and even owned, by their computers. For instance, one 18-year old reader of Time sent a computer "letter" to the editor saying that "Mac is a part of me, and without it I would feel naked" (Time, 21 February 1994). Similarly, the president of a freedom-of-information group noted, "It's getting to be that the tools are setting the rules" (Gooderham, in SHA, 29 August 1993). Even people who say they are not controlled by their computers will use the computer even when they could do the same thing as easily, and maybe even better, by other and less sophisticated means. For example, on a low level, many people with computers no longer write letters by hand, but only by computer.

It is for this reason that we say that technology, and computers specifically, have become an idol, because idols always end up in control of their makers and become the master. Thus, when people engage themselves extensively with technological processes, something about these objects and processes does indeed become part of themselves.

*Someone once said that particularly in the American culture, which is simultaneously so religious and so anti-metaphysical, there is a tendency to reduce metaphysical questions to engineering problems. According to some reviewers (FT, 1/95), this is what the author of the book The Physics of Immortality did, because in effect he tried to make theology a branch of physics.

*Somebody has invented an electronic computerized confessional. One types in one's sins on a keyboard, and a computer then absolves one of sin and assigns a penance. Reportedly, up to 500 people a day confess thusly. The service is accessible under an access code that includes the word "priest."

*The largest monetary award for achievement in any field is the Templeton Prize for progress in religion, currently at \$1 million at a shot. It was won in 1995 by a physicist who claimed to have proven that "science offers a surer path to God than religion" (AP in SHJ, 11 March 95).

*Here is a peculiar cosmology by an idolator of science. She said that if humans exist for a purpose at all, the purpose is to conduct "scientific research. It is the one urge that is exclusively human and distinctive of the race" (Science, 29/7/1994, p. 688), which is of course not at all the only distinctively human trait.

*For decades, the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, where Werner von Braun worked, was the rocket capital of the US. The local people were so proud of it that a Baptist church erected a spire that was shaped like a rocket.

*What commercial consumer product has been announced or greeted with the greatest amount of fanfare? According to Consumer Reports (10/95), it was the computer software program Windows 95. Does anyone else smell idolatry here? Mighty Computer, save us, O Lord.

*Pollsters have decided that Americans do not know what it is they believe in, or why. They proclaim belief in the Ten Commandments, but do not know what they are, and only half of those who claim to be Christian even know who gave the Sermon on the Mount (e.g., SHJ, 2 July 94). A Generation of Seekers (1993) claims that regardless what the professed religion of the baby boom generation is, its big values are "choice," tolerance of virtually any lifestyle, a confused mixing of religion and psychology, and doing what one feels "works for me." The above work refers to this stance as "transformed narcissism," and sees it as the American religious future.

*In a nationwide survey, 42% of Americans who believed in Jesus said that he "committed sins just like other people" (SHJ, 31/12/94).

*Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco offers a 4-path eclectic Quest consisting of reclaiming the feminine as divine, integrating eastern and western spiritual disciplines, artistic creativity and mystical experience (November, 28/11/94). Some people call this cafeteria religion.

*A man went to a huge Barnes & Noble bookstore (a US chain of large bookstores) and discovered that there were 60 shelves of New Age books, and ten shelves labelled Christianity. The New Age shelves contained books on numerology, witchery, spells, alchemy, and all sorts of other things. There is some speculation that the flower children of the 60s graduated into major consumers of New Age religion (CS, Dec. 94).

*In certain circles, the observation of the winter solstice on 21 December is replacing Christmas--probably among New Age and similar folk.

*Someone said (FT, 8/94, p. 59) that modernistic religion has become like the advertisement world. Jim Bakker is Velveeta; Norman Vincent Peale is sliced Swiss in plastic wrap; Reinhold Niebuhr is Brie.

*The schizophrenia and other insanities about religion are amazing. In Europe, only 36% of people believed in a god in 1990, but 45% said that they gained comfort from religion, and 59% said that they prayed or meditated. In France, up to 85% of the population described themselves as Catholic, but less than 10% go to church (SV, 9 April 95; source item from Peter King).

*In 1995, we saw a remarkable ad inviting applications for the position of Dean of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago. The most overarching requirement seemed to be that the dean believe in nothing, or not strongly in anything: "Provide intellectual, spiritual, and community service leadership in meeting the needs of an interdenominational community with diverse religious interests and Campus Ministries; preside over University services and other official functions; supervise the use of the Chapel for musical programs and public lectures; teach in the University. The Dean may be a member of any faith community." The chapel "provides a place where faculty and students throughout the year can express their need for ritual and community, reflection and renewal, whether through prayer, meditation, or musical performance, without the constraints of a particular belief."

*The Washington Post announced an opening for a religion reporter, underlining that "the ideal candidate is not necessarily religious nor an expert in religion" (FI, 1/95).

*Virtually everywhere within the culture of modernism, the evidence is very strong that any churches and religions that accommodate themselves to modernism and make few demands on people to stand in contradiction to it are losing their capacity to attract and retain adherents. In Britain, the Muslims are already outnumbering the Methodists, and the Mormons are close to overtaking the Baptists (Context, 1 July 95).

*In Japan, it has become popular for nonChristians to have Christian wedding ceremonies. Some hotels advertise that they are equipped with "Christian wedding ceremony equipment," which typically includes crosses, stained glass windows, lecterns and taped hymns. The package sells for around \$14,500 (CM, 15/8/91).

*A man from a sect closely related to the Amish and wearing similar attire was stopped by a businessman on Fifth Avenue who said, "I'll give you five minutes. Tell me what you believe." The believer did, whereupon the businessman nodded and walked away (Newsweek, 20 Feb. 95). Even if our salvation depended on it, how many of us could validly convey in 5 minutes "what we believe"?

*Someone made the observation that whatever traditional religions are walking away from is eagerly being picked up and vulgarized by the pop culture. A prime example is Gregorian chant which is hardly heard anymore in a Catholic context, but which has suddenly become popular among an essentially nonreligious subculture. About 1980, after Catholics had largely ceased wearing crucifixes around their necks, outright anti-Christian rock performers began wearing them. After Christian theologians more and more dismissed the ideas of good or bad angels, or at least the engagement of good angels with humans as in guardian-angelship, angel motifs became a very popular pop--and even New Age--craze. In Fall 93, a fashion craze by fashion designers began to be promoted which relied on a massive incorporation of religious symbols in fashion and jewelry--what one report called "the most blatant form of religious appropriation" (SHJ, 29/9/93). Designs incorporated religious garb and the imagery of angels, with jewelry relying very heavily on crucifix designs, none of this reflecting a genuine religiosity--and in fact, even the opposite, namely, a subtle intended degradation of things religious. A few years ago, there was an angel craze, embraced even by the unbelieving. Now, and perhaps not surprisingly, we seem to be in a gargoyle craze, with reproductions of medieval gargoyles being a brisk business.

*There used to be Buddhist monks available to the mourners at certain Japanese cemeteries, but they have begun to be replaced by robots that look extremely human and are dressed as Buddhist monks and made to look wise. They will beat the gongs at the appropriate moments, sing hymns for the souls of the departed, and so on. This arrangement saves a lot of money (AW, 20/8/94).

*When Calvin College in Michigan applied for trademark protection of its logo, the Calvin Klein clothing firm (familiar mostly because of its ads featuring human buttocks and crotches) protested, but withdrew its protest when it learned that Calvin had been around long before Klein. There is now worry that cultural ignorance and time illiteracy will cause Christian Dior to trademark the word Christian, and Cross Pen to try to trademark the crucifix, forcing 1.8 billion Christians to hire expensive lawyers to get it back (FT, 3/95).

*A Stanford University professor came up with the startling claim (in the book, The Bible, Violence & The Sacred: Liberation From the Myth of Sanctioned Violence, 1991) that a major cause of violence in our society is the Bible. We wonder what caused violence in all the societies that did not know the Bible.

*The framers of the US Constitution had a very different idea as to what constituted a separation of church and state than has evolved in recent decades. The day in 1789 after the US House of Representatives passed the First Amendment (which prohibited any establishment of religion), it called for a day of religious thanksgiving.

Until very recently, every tribe, village and city in human history had set aside public space for sacred worships (Newsweek, 28/11/94). In 1994, the city of San Jose, California, erected a 25-foot statue of the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl. In his honor, tens of thousands of human sacrifices were made, usually by ripping the hearts from the chests of live victims in one lightning-swift "procedure." Few people thought this peculiar, offensive, or a violation of separation of church and state. In fact, one (Christian) priest thought this was "a healthy symbol" to help people "let go of some of the First World interpretation of history that is so prevalent" (FI, 9/94). We think the statue should have been erected in front of an abortuary. At any rate, only two weeks after unveiling this \$500,000 statue in a public city park, the city ordered removal of a nativity scene from the same park where it had been on display for 15 Christmas seasons (FI, 1/95). Cincinnati was ordered by a court to grant the Ku Klux Klan permission to erect a wooden cross in a downtown square during the Christmas season (AP in SHJ, 17/12/93).

*Here are some vignettes of what the authorities in the US consider to be, on the one hand, an appropriate form of separation of church and state, and on the other, freedom of religion. A 10-year-old pupil in an elementary school was "caught" by a school official bowing his head over his lunch. He was chastised in front of his classmates and given a detention punishment. A 9-year-old

physically and mentally handicapped girl was observed to be carrying a Bible while riding on a school bus, and had it confiscated. In Galveston, Texas, a US Marshall was sent to witness a high school graduation with instructions to arrest any student who, at the graduation invocation, might "refer to a specific deity by name." A judge said he would sentence any such student to six months imprisonment and the student "is going to wish that he or she had died as a child" (NC Register, 23/7/95). A federal judge ordered officials at a federal prison in Colorado to let an inmate perform satanic rituals on Halloween (EI, 12/94).

*A certain Peter Berger once said that if India is the most religious nation in the world and Sweden the least religious, then the United States of America is a nation of Indians ruled by Swedes. This alludes to the fact that the US has some of the highest indices of religiosity, but one of the most legalized exclusions of religious expression in public affairs.

*Whenever things go badly in a society, and people get stressed, they turn to religion--often, superstitious forms thereof. The religious craziness breaking out everywhere, the rise of cults, people's readiness to be swept up by them, and people reporting religious miracles and appearances--all these things are well known to be human responses to societal and ecological crises. Below follow some vignettes that exemplify this.

There was an unforeseen record attendance at the annual festival of clairvoyance in Cannes, France, with about 100,000 participants (Toronto Globe & Mail, Summer 94; clipping from Barry Wever). The more uncertain things become, and the less secure people feel, the more they turn to this sort of thing, much as they did toward the end of World War II.

The collapse of the concept of an emperor-god is believed to have contributed to a proliferation of cults and religions in Japan.

Between 1981 and 1994, there was a dramatic increase in belief in the devil in the US population, up from 52% to 65% (SHJ, 24/12/94). When more people believe in the devil than in God, then we will know that things are real bad.

*There are about 25,000 Protestant denominations, with about 100 new ones coming into existence every year (CS, 24/11/94).

*On the one hand, there have been numerous claims in recent years of so-called ritual abuse, meaning physical or sexual abuse in connection with satanic or other cult rites; but on the other hand, there are people who claim that there has not even been a single substantiated case of such abuse, and that it is all an "urban legend" of our time, fed by irresponsible media.

*The Alabama Baptist Board of Missions commissioned a study that reported that 46.1% of Alabamans need salvation, also concluding that a higher proportion of Catholics than of Baptists needed it (EI, 11/93).

*In African countries, Europeans during the colonial period were sometimes interpreted by the natives as being either "trade Europeans," "war Europeans," or "God Europeans," the latter referring to missionaries.

*Whenever some ethnic or religious group is undergoing oppression and is screaming "uncle," one often does not hear what oppression this group is in turn perpetrating. For instance, while the Kurds were being severely beset by the Iraqis in 1991, and fleeing into safe zones, they were at the same time oppressing and even killing those among their own who happened to be Assyrian Christians, who made up a full 15% of the refugees (USN&WR, 6 May 91).

*No sooner had astronomers announced that other stars in the cosmos also have planets than some theologians called for sending missionaries to convert extraterrestrial beings, while other theologians claimed that such beings may not have committed the original sin, and may not need redemption (31/10/95 news item from Doug Mouncey).

The Interface of Religion & Human Service

*Americans will find virtually incomprehensible the size of the church-operated service sector in some countries, such as Germany. There, just one national Catholic organization employs 408,000 paid human service workers, and its Protestant counterpart has 336,000 (Spiegel, No. 10, 1995). In some of the German states, almost all kindergartens are run by churches. However, most of the cost of such services is born by government.

*The Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis has been raising funds by establishing a gift annuity program advertised as "help God's little children while you gain the security of a guaranteed income for life" (e.g., CH, 1/94).

*Until circa 1980, there was an agency running residences for mentally handicapped children in the US south called City of God (source information from David Truran).

*A social critic once said, "always distrust a saint when his charity generates his paycheck" (Time, 1 March 1993, p. 72).

*In Massachusetts, there is a human service called "House of Affirmation," which is apparently a Catholic facility that provides mental health services to men and women in holy orders (source item supplied by Doug Mouncey).

*One of the new crazes in certain circles of Christian shrinkery is to tell people that they need to "forgive God."

*To our amazement, we were given A Hospital Handbook on Multiculturalism and Religion published in 1993 and intended mostly for hospital chaplains. It sketches the religious beliefs and related practices of nine major religions from around the world that a chaplain might encounter among hospital patients in a "multicultural" society. Imagine having to minister to people of scores of religions, and having to be "sensitive" to their beliefs and traditions. One would think that at a certain point, a chaplain's mind would simply give out.

*In his December 1994 Christmas letter, Jean Vanier wrote this: "I am convinced that we are entering into a new phase of the history of our planet. On one hand, amazing technological discoveries and experiments in genetics; on the other hand our societies produce such fatigue, stress, fragility, depression, violence and sense of isolation. Some respond by entering into sects and strong fanatical or nationalist movements that want to put order into the world through force or fear. Yet, also we see the birth of new communities, open, loving, built on the Gospel message, close to the poor, allowing themselves to be evangelised by them. They are a sign of hope. I pray that our communities may be signs of hope." By "our," he meant the l'Arche communities.

Morality in Society

*The president of the National Academy of Science wrote a substantial article in Science (9 Dec. 94) emphasizing the importance of ethics in scientific research, particularly in consequence of all sorts of scientific scandals, and in the face of declining trust on the part of the public and decision-makers. Two things struck us. One was that the single major avenue for moralizing researchers emphasized in the article was the case study approach, and yet this is bound to have the opposite effect in that it is characteristically based on difficult cases that scramble people's minds at a time when they do not possess higher-order moral principles with which to resolve specific cases. The second thing was that some of the case studies presented as examples of models of teaching ethics involved such things as authorship disputes and allocation of material resources among researchers. It struck us that here were the very people who were aborting babies, cutting up anencephalic babies for their parts, and monkeying around with the origins of human life, and

demanding unfettered license to study whatever they wish and to be given unlimited amount of public funds for doing so--and yet their idea of ethics is bickering over such things as turf battles and authorship allocations. Thus, the huge preponderance of case study approaches suits this kind of research culture just fine because it helps it avoid dealing with moral absolutes from above.

*In New York State, 10% of state legislators have hired relatives on their staff (SHJ, 20/9/94). We would say that that is not very good for diversity.

*Here is yet another bit of evidence of the hopeless corruption of the US government. As part of their ticket, air travelers pay a fee that goes to a trust fund for improving air travel and safety. Instead of using this money as intended, the government has sat on it so that it could count the money against the federal budget deficits, and make them look less worse. In the meantime, air traffic control has entered a critical phase because its computers are up to 33 years old (Time, 11 Sept. 1995).

*Almost across the board, politicians in the US get rich while in office at usually modest salaries. While governor of Tennessee, Lamar Alexander (Republican presidential candidate in 1995) invested \$1 (one dollar) in the purchase of a Tennessee newspaper, and earned \$620,000 on this investment--and was not even ashamed. Hillary Clinton had earlier also gotten a fabulous return on a small investment, apparently "shmeared" by business people who wanted to ingratiate themselves.

*In ancient Athenian democracy, before an officeholder was released, there took place the euthuna, a detailed investigation of the officeholder's conduct while in office. If only we had this institution today.

*Druggists have moved into the No. 1 position of trust by Americans, followed by clergy and dentists. Lawyers keep slipping, now down to 17%, the same as police. Near the bottom (9%), barely above car sales people (6%), are members of Congress (SHJ, 14/4/95).

*Somebody made the observation that despite the vast amount of professional literature in the area of economics, studies of corruption from an economic perspective are surprisingly few, particularly when one considers how commonplace corruption in economic affairs is (Newsweek, 14/11/94).

*In the US, there were 570,000 charities registered with the IRS in 1993 (SHJ, 2 Nov. 94).

*One thing that has been good about the US has been its tradition of a high rate of volunteering of services by its citizens. While this has dropped off considerably in just the recent years, and was at 48% of adults in 1993, this still compares well with many other countries. Charitable giving has also declined, but was still at a respectable \$880 figure per household in 1993, which also compares favorably with many other countries. Of course, much of this money goes to people's churches, whereas in several European countries, people pay a church tax, which Americans would find most unnatural. However, for unexplained reasons, Catholics give less than either Protestants or nonbelievers.

*A spark of the positive side of the American character broke through at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing earlier this year. People with nursing backgrounds streamed spontaneously from everywhere to the disaster scene, so that within a mere half hour, there were more nurses than victims (Time, 1 May 95).

*Before becoming president, Clinton had donated three pairs of his used underpants and one pair of used long johns to the Salvation Army, deducting \$2 and \$15 each respectively (Newsweek, 2 May 94).

*In 1994, a Russian physician said that he knew no one in Russia who would do a good deed anymore without expecting something in return ("60 Minutes," 29/5/94).

*Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914) was a well-known German poet influenced by the anthroposophist Rudolf Steiner. Many of his poems were quite whimsical, in a category called "gallows songs" in German, and are not well known by nonGerman audiences because they are difficult to translate. Below is one of his poems, entitled "The Pike," which is relevant to our topic.

Reformed by sainted Anthony,
A pike decided, morally,
Together with his wife and son,
To try and feed himself upon
The vegetarian ideal.

Since that day, he would only eat
Seagrass, searose and seaoatmeal.
Horrors! soon as he had dined,
Seagrass, searose, creamofseawheat
Flowed out again horribly behind.

The pond was soon polluted, wholly;
Five hundred fish expired in pain.
Saint Anthony, however, when
Hurriedly summoned back again,
Said only, "Holy, holy, holy."

War & Preparation for War

As we keep pointing out, preparing or conducting war always has disproportionately destructive impact on the lowly.

Miscellaneous

*Steiner, S. C. (1982). Joining the Army that sheds no blood. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press. Five percent of the people killed during World War I were civilians; in World War II it was already 48%, and as many Germans died in the "conventional" saturation bombing of Hamburg as died from the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima; and in the Korean and Vietnam wars, the percentage of deaths who were civilians rose to 85%.

*In the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, only a few hundred of the victims were soldiers.

*A few years ago, it was revealed that the US had targeted 120 nuclear warheads on Moscow alone, and that over the Soviet Union as a whole, even if only one-third of all the warheads had gotten through Soviet defenses, every Soviet city with a population of more than 25,000 would have been obliterated (Time, 16/7/90).

*How war costs the poor was exemplified by the 1994-95 border conflict between the two poor nations of Peru and Ecuador. Although the conflict was tiny by the usual standards, it cost each party somewhere around \$400 million (AP in SHJ, 9 Feb. 95).

*Even in the post-cold-war era, the US military costs nearly as much as the rest of the armed forces of the whole world! (Time, 5 June 95).

*The western press has never carried much coverage on the famine and war during the last 10 years in Sudan, the largest country in Africa. But the victimization continues. Eyewitnesses have reported the massacres of entire villages, forced deportations of people into the countryside where they often died of starvation, and the massive enslavement of mostly women, mostly by the Muslim peoples of the north. These have been of such proportion that observers have applied the word "genocide" to them. This is merely one more example of how untold numbers of people can be wiped out with little or no "evidence" of this tragedy.

*It is hard to believe that the countries of France and South Africa have been rearming the Hutu killers who committed genocide in Rwanda (AP in SHJ, 30/5/95).

*After Panama was liberated by the Americans in 1989, and the drug lords thrown out, the country ended up poorer. The rich there became richer. There was more crime, and more drugs and drug money passed through than before (columnist Reeves in SHJ, 23/7/94).

*Every country that goes to war has much to repent of, regardless whether it comes out victor or vanquished. However, as we keep teaching, it is one of the signs of imperial bodies that, unlike individuals, they hardly ever repent and apologize. For instance, the US has never apologized for dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. The allied powers never apologized for bombing Dresden or other German civilian targets, although in some of these bombings, as many or more people died than at Nagasaki or Hiroshima. These are examples of the victors not apologizing, but even the losers may not repent. For instance, during the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, it was brought to public attention that Japan had never apologized for the various atrocities it committed during that war. According to the CBS Evening News of 22 March 1995, one lone Japanese man who was a soldier during the war, and participated in interrogations of American POWs in the Pacific, is the sole Japanese citizen who is publicly calling his country to repentance.

*The Pentagon argued that the US should continue the star wars program at \$2.8 billion a year because this would have useful commercial fallout--so to speak. As an example, it said that previous military research resulted in technology that now permits pizza delivery operations to keep pizzas hot and crisp for two hours (Columbus Dispatch, 10 Jan. 95; Source item from Irene Ward).

*After it was announced that a new neutron bomb would only kill people but not damage property, Carl Scharnberg wrote a poem from which we give several stanzas below.

The world is ever advancing
and now they've assured us a war,
which only kills all the living
and lets valuables stand as before.

The bomb sends its rays out quietly.
Only people need die in war,
The powerful can just take over
a safer world than before.

No ruins can tell the story.
The dead will then be free.
Things of worth will survive the war,
that's how it's going to be.

*When the US government announced that it would close the Griffiss Air Force base in northern New York State (a major base for nuclear bombers), a big prayer meeting was held in a local Catholic church to pray that the base would stay open, for the sake of the local economy.

*The US military tries to project an image of rationality, planning, and being in control, but in 1993, it was unable to account for \$19 billion that it had spent. US Senator Glenn who was part of an oversight committee said that the Pentagon does not appear to be in charge of its own finances (AP in SHJ, 12 Aug. 94).

*Everything nuclear is interconnected, i.e., the production of nuclear weapons contributes to peaceful nuclear products, and the development of peaceful nuclear products (e.g., electricity) contributes to the capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

Japan sends its nuclear waste via secret routes to France and Britain--which also have no safe final way to dispose of it (AP in SHJ, 25/4/95).

*Apparently, one needs to be a warrior, lawbreaker, or assassin in order to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Increasingly in recent years, the Norwegian commission that awards the Peace Prize has been giving it as an incentive for the recipients involved in a conflict to make peace, rather than to truly peaceful people for having made and preserved peace. This reflects a peculiarly corrupt and utilitarian image of peace. Teddy Roosevelt (1906) was a hawk if there ever was one. Henry Kissinger (1973) endorses violence to this day, and was a liar. Le Duc Tho (1973) was a life-long war lord. Begin (1978) was a terrorist and assassin, and Sadat (1978) a war-starter. Rabin and Arafat (1994) have been violent people, leaders of violence (Arafat still is). Gandhi never got the Prize.

*Yes, there is a Finck von Finckenstein. In the West German army since WWII, a huge proportion of generals (sometimes a third) were from noble families. Nobles have also been highly represented in the German foreign service. German protocol officers have traditionally been nobles, a recent incumbent being--believe it or not--Count Finck von Finckenstein.

The Arms Business

*The US is now the chief supplier of weapons in the world, having sold at least \$22.3 billion worth in 1993. It provided 13% of the imported arms in Yugoslavia, and 95+% in Northern Ireland (AP in SHJ, 25/5/95).

*Israel has been a major supplier of arms to the Columbia drug cartel.

*After the US had sold very sophisticated weaponry all over the world, and helped several countries develop nuclear technology, it announced (Science, 24/2/95) the need for a huge initiative to develop countermeasures against the technology it had sold. This is a good example of the cynicism in "defense" circles. All this had happened before with Iraq.

*An American (Roger Crummer) who is a leading international arms dealer sold arms abroad under the cover of a firm which he named Dilligas, which turned out to be the acronym for "Do I look like I give a shit?" (Newsweek, 18/4/94).

*In 1993, 3.2 million firearms were imported to the US, or 345% more than in 1991 (Newsweek, 24/1/94).

*A 1993 international arms catalogue issued around Christmas time carried the slogan, "Peace on Earth and profit to all!" (Newsweek, 24/1/94).

Further Facts About World War III

*Prior to World War III, the US government approved at least 73 shipments of biological agents to Iraq (Time, 6/6/94), and about 60 US firms were selling chemicals to Iraq that could be used to wage chemical warfare.

***The Gulf War Syndrome.** By early 1995, there were 50,000 former US soldiers who had been in the Persian Gulf during WWII who claimed to have the so-called Persian Gulf Syndrome (CBS "60 Minutes," 12 March 95). In our opinion, a very good candidate as the cause is the drugs and vaccination that the members of the military got against biological and gas warfare. One vaccine was against botulism and another one was against anthrax, and a third drug was against nerve (gas) agents. These agents were released for military use without sufficient prior clinical trials. For all this, we can thank the AIDS lobby which had been successful in getting AZT prematurely approved in record time (which turned out to have been a gigantic error), and which set the stage for other drugs to be permitted to by-pass the usual more rigorous controlled trials. The first and the third by-passed the ordinary Food & Drug Administration approval process. In fact, the vaccine against botulism was just about to be thrown out because of the negative reactions it produced, but instead it got put to use on the soldiers. Before 400,000 soldiers were ordered to take the nerve agent vaccine, it had only been tried out for a few days on 4 volunteers, and never on women, whereas in the Gulf, 28,000 women were vaccinated with it. Also, for the first time, it was given in many repeated doses. Interestingly, this agent produces the same adverse affects as the ones reported by a large proportion of the ailing Gulf War veterans. Yet further, the vaccine was designed against certain gases but actually makes people more vulnerable to other nerve agents--namely, precisely some of the very ones that the Iraqis appear to have used in some locations. On top of it all, the US government had not even kept proper records of which soldiers had participated in which other investigational drugs or vaccines (FI, 2/95).

***Just before killing several hundred thousand Iraqis in WWII, US troops in the Persian Gulf experienced an extraordinary ground-swell of religious revival and conversions (AP in SHJ, 22/2/91).**

***The Iraqi Silkworm missiles faced by the US in 1990 had been sold to Iraq by the US in the first place, and contained Israeli guidance systems! (Time, 2 Sept. 91).**

***Readers may find this hard to believe, but a guest editorial in Time (26/9/90) argued in favor of wars such as World War III in order to keep the "old and frail" from freezing and in order to prevent mass unemployment. Actually, if energy costs skyrocketed, hardly anybody would be unemployed because what is now done by machine would have to be done by human labor. However, as columnist Royko pointed out (SHJ, 8 March 91), by containing Iraq, the developed nations created a gigantic arms market for themselves, with numerous rich Arab countries buying many billions of dollars worth of arms from them because they are scared.**

***Amazingly, 4 million medals were handed out by the US military in connection with WWII.**

***A columnist noted that so many of the US missiles used in World War III were called "smart bombs," but that nobody ever called the bomb that was detonated in one of the Trade Towers in New York City a smart bomb, even though it was very cleverly placed and exploded. Bombs that kill one's own are less apt to be considered smart (SHJ, 5 March 93).**

The Family--and the Collapse or Lack of It

***In his 1993 book, America's Children, Donald Hernandez said that there had been 8 "revolutions" in the lives of children in the US in the 20th century: the disappearance of the two-parent farm family; the growth of the one-parent family; fewer homes with a grandparent present who could make up for the lost parent; a decrease in the number of siblings; an increase in parents' education; the growth of mothers in the labor force; the decrease in fathers' full-time employment; more single-parent, female head-of-household families; the disappearance of intact, never divorced two-parent, two-child families; and the reappearance of widespread child poverty.**

*Rutgers University sociologist David Popenoe said that in America, the family has declined in three significant respects: as a demographic reality, as an institutional presence (e.g., by turning over functions such as food preparation and child care to other entities), and as a cultural force in that it is less and less valued in relation to claims of dominance by the individual self on the one hand, and the allegedly greater welfare on the other (C&T, Fall 94).

*In the US, 10,000 women had other women's ova implanted in 1993. Usually, it is rich women who buy the ova of poorer ones. Also, many students function as donors. The buyers pay \$12,000 per "try," with no guarantee of success at any of the trials. A lot of the women who get themselves implanted do it without telling their husbands. Most people do not realize that it is a relatively risky procedure for the donor, who first has to undergo all sorts of hormone or fertility drug treatments, and then an operative invasion. These drugs also increase the likelihood that the woman will later get cancer. The fact that a great deal of this business in the US is done by foreign-born physicians gives it a slightly disreputable flavor on top of everything else. Despite all these problems, the business has been explosive (CBS "60 Minutes," 2 Oct. 94).

*Her child's grandmother. In late June 1995, CBS television presented a film that glorified a woman becoming the mother of her daughter's child via high-tech reproductive technology.

*One of the peculiar paradoxes of modernism is that the more humans arrogate to themselves the artificial making of life, the less competent are they becoming at reproduction in their own lives.

*Allegedly, there are 400,000 children without parents in Russia, one result being that there has been a surge of adoptions of Russian children by US parents (Milwaukee Magazine, 4/95).

*An estimated 10 million US children under 18 have one parent behind bars (Casa Cry, 3/95).

*On the David Letterman TV show, talk show host Kathie L. Gifford made jokes about the fact that she stopped breast-feeding her 6-week old baby because she was to cohost an upcoming Miss America Pageant, and her breasts had become too large to fit her new dresses that she was to wear--and that the dresses won. The audience laughed (FT, 12/94). At about the same time, the director of the Parent-Child Center of the New York Psychoanalytic Society wrote a letter to the Wall Street Journal that proclaimed that some mothers are better mothers because they work full-time.

*According to some researchers, children who have two working parents grow up less smart than they would have otherwise because of the lowered contact with adults. An alternate hypothesis is that poor common sense runs in the genes of such families.

*Here is a startling example symbolic of the kind of child-junking that is going on in our society. A Syracuse mother left her baby with a babysitter. When the sitter got ill, she took the child to another family at a different address to look after the baby. These people apparently were not too happy about having a baby dropped on them and took the baby to another family next door. This family in turn also did not like the arrangement and handed the baby to yet a third family. These people decided they wanted to have nothing to do with the baby and simply set the stroller with the baby unattended into a hallway in their apartment house. When the mother came home, she frantically tried to track down what had happened to her baby, running around the neighborhood and from one apartment to the other. When she finally found the last apartment where the baby had been, its resident punched her in the face (SHJ, 12 Dec. 94).

*Changes in family structure and identity are worldwide. Even in underdeveloped countries, there are fewer traditional families because of increasing unwed motherhood, rising divorce rates, and frequent migration (SHJ, 31/5/95). One consequence is that fathers are around less, and more women have to support their children as well as caring for them.

*In Benton Harbor, Michigan, 83% of families are headed by a single parent, the vast majority of these being single mothers, and a large proportion of these are mothers in their teens or early 20s (AP in SHA, 18/9/94).

*Despite the fact that the overwhelming evidence that is coming in is confirming common sense that parental separation is bad for children, there are still university professors who are doing research studies that "discover" how much better off children of divorce are than if their parents had stayed together. One such hold-out professor said that if parents who are not happy with each other stay together, it "risks domestic violence," as if that were worse than children growing up without parents (Time, 27/2/95). In other words, the interests of a parent are thereby once again placed above those of the child--which is, of course, old hat in our society. Other "researchers" argue rather laboriously that it is abusive families that are the problem, rather than collapsing families (e.g., AP in SHJ, 18/9/94). Actually, if that were so, this would be a strong argument in favor of parental separation and divorce, and more single-parent families, though apparently such "thinkers" are failing to see the link between being a single parent and being poor. After all, it is very difficult to have a well-paying job, if any, while raising children alone.

*One reason why there has been an adoption provision and tradition in Western society is because the Romans had it. In Russia, private adoption has not been legal, one result of course being that an orphanage culture has flourished. US child placement agencies and the US courts are systematically committing adopticide. This is one reason more and more Americans who want to adopt go abroad because they are afraid that the children they might adopt in America will get de-adopted away from them by the courts in favor of suddenly resurfacing birth parents.

*A 1993 TV ad admonished listeners to call Wausau (insurance company) and not "your mother" when "your baby is ill"--another manifestation of the promotion of family breakdown.

*Rolling Stone band member Bill Wyman started shacking with Mandy Smith when she was 13 and he was 47, and then married and divorced her. When Wyman was 56, his son (Stephen) by an earlier liaison was 30, and announced in 4/93 that he would marry the 46-year-old mother (Patsy) of his 22-year-old stepmother (Mandy), making Wyman Sr. the grandfather in-law of his former wife (Mandy), as well as his new daughter-in-law's ex-son-in-law, while his son (Stephen) becomes his ex-stepmother's (Mandy's) stepfather.

One vision we have of what hell will be like is an earth much like now except without any God-fearers on it, where no one ever dies anymore, but everybody couples with everybody else (male or female) while simultaneously detesting them. Much of this hell will be like the world the PC crowd is currently trying to fashion.

*Sanger, M. (1920). Woman and the new race. New York: Brentano's. This is a eugenics and feminism classic, with a photograph of the author and her two children, and anticipates many of the contemporary proabortion and contraceptive arguments. One chapter is entitled "The Wickedness of Creating Large Families," a theme that one encounters almost universally these days. On p. 229, the author describes birth control as being "nothing more or less than the facilitation of the process of weeding out the unfit, of preventing the birth of defectives or those who will become defectives." On pages 40-41, the "feeble-minded and other defectives" are discussed, and Henry Goddard is cited. This discussion on the feeble-minded is embedded in the recitation of fearsome facts about prostitution, illiteracy, and all sorts of other social problems. There is also reference to the feeble-minded in connection with large families on page 63. The Jukes study is cited on page 78, together with the testimony of a mother of four with a retarded child.

*The International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo in 1994, but listening to the news, one would have thought it was about family life. Yet in the draft document for the conference, the word "marriage" appeared only once, and that in connection with "coercion and discrimination in policies and practices related to marriage" (ET, 2/95).

*In recent decades, more and more organizations that used to be concerned with a welfare or environmental issue have begun to pursue population control measures, on the rationale that their traditional goals were futile to pursue in the face of population increase. The appointment of an abortion advocate as director of UNICEF in 1995 is seen as one of a series of steps of pushing UNICEF in the same direction (Communiqué, 5/5/95).

*One is startled to learn that CARE--which used to hand-out desperately-needed and much-enjoyed food packages after World War II--is now using the money donated to it to train and equip thousands of workers in 17 countries to operate 300 family planning clinics (Communiqué, 25/8/95). Apparently, the thinking behind this is that it is more efficient to prevent reproduction than to hand out food to already existing people.

*We were both surprised and pleased to hear that in Third World countries, people will often refuse to participate in public health programs in which they receive free drugs. The reason is that they do not trust government-run drug distribution--obviously, for good reason (Science, 24/6/94). Apparently, one thing that lowly people in poor countries fear is that the government or the rich will secretly deprive them of fecundity, as by handing out medicines said to address one thing that in reality lower sex drive or fertility.

*At least 12 European countries now have birth rates that are about 25% below population replacement rates. It has been that way since about 1980. Catholic countries that used to have very high birth rates are now at the bottom. Italy has the lowest birth rate, with an average of 1.3 children per woman, followed by Spain with 1.4, and Portugal and Greece with 1.5 (AP in SHJ, 25/5/94). The birth rate in one of the East German states has fallen so low that the state has begun to pay couples \$650 for having a baby (Communiqué, 23/12/94).

*The lies and deceptions about world population were dramatically evidenced in the 2 Dec. 94 issue of Science, in which a major article documented dramatic declines in recent decades in fertility to, or below, the population replacement rate in China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, and yet an editorial in the very same issue proclaimed that birth rate declines were "the exception and not the rule." China alone has such a huge population that it alone would make up for scores of nations that are not the exception. Furthermore, massive population collapses are in progress in Africa alone because of HIV.

*Contrary to what we are being led to believe, the world still produces enough food to exceed the calorie requirements of all people. Thus, a bigger problem at the moment is not overpopulation but underdistribution of resources (Casa Cry, 1/95).

*Liberal columnist Nicholas von Hoffman proposed that the "population crisis" be addressed by creating "Bobbitt squads to ferret out and fix human males with a rooster complex who can't get it through their heads that insemination is a criminal, anti-social act" (FT, 12/94, p. 76). Actually, advocating for liberal sex practices would do the trick, since it brings epidemic death in its wake.

*Since the mid-1980s, the TIPS editor has been among the people who have warned that the public was beginning to contemplate once again the establishment of certain kinds of asylums, in light of both the failures of certain aspects of deinstitutionalization policy, and in part in response to the overwhelming problems in society. One aspect of this development has finally become crystal-clear to the public as Republicans, victorious in the 11/94 congressional elections, have begun to call for the reinstitution of an orphanage system. One of the interesting aspects of this development is that many people, including many media, are talking about group homes as if these were orphanages or institutions, and as if this were all that people meant who are now calling for orphanages. A second interesting aspect is that some of the pro-orphanage people are vehement that what parents do is often not in the best interest of the child, contrary to what some indeed stupid people have been claiming for a long time. Yet another feature of this development, and by far

perhaps the most pernicious, is that people are pointing to the Omaha Boys Town as they "remember" it, i.e., that of Father Flanagan in the 1940s and 50s, as the model for orphanages today. However, Boys Town today is not at all what it used to be decades ago; and secondly, orphanages today could hardly be what Boys Town once was long ago. The truth is that Father Flanagan's Boys Town has not all been what it was under Father Flanagan even as long ago as the 1960s, but has been a much poorer and vastly more problematic place, in part also because the US had run out of the kind of relatively well-socialized or at least malleable children that populated Boys Town in its early years.

The Collapse of Finance, Society & Polity in the US & Elsewhere, & The Ascendancy of Military Rule

*How chaos is erupting all over the world was symbolized by the fact that the bombing of the federal courthouse in Oklahoma City and the release of poison gas by a fanatic doomsday cult in Yokohama took place on the same day, 10 April 95.

*In 1992, there were almost as many guns in the US as people, and at any rate one per adult (SHJ, 7 Jan. 94).

*As of Fall 1995, about half of the US states had passed laws that made it permissible for any citizen of presumably sound mind and without a criminal record to carry a concealed hand gun. This right has been called "the right to pack," and seems to be particularly popular in Florida (isn't American English a wonderful tongue?). In most states, all one had to do to qualify was at the most take a two-hour course (CBS TV "60 Minutes," 2 Oct. 95).

*Considering how obvious the dynamics are in our society that contribute to violence and homelessness, it is preposterous to learn that the US Congress has been demanding more research on these two issues (Science, 13/8/94).

*According to Newsweek (13/3/95), "there is no doubt Washington's local government has finally, truly collapsed." The amazing thing about this is that DC had one of the highest rates in the US of employing people in its government, even as it has had one of the worst crime rates in the country, and schools with some of the lowest achievement scores by its children despite the highest spending per student in the country. It also has had one of the highest rates of infant mortality, local residents on public aid, and per-capita city government debt. Not only is all of this highly remarkable, but also profoundly symbolic.

*One symptom of the collapse of urban society and the withdrawal of the police forces from high-problem areas such as racial ghettos is exemplified in the instructions that police departments sometimes give to their officers that they should not handle "minutiae" calls. Actually, the ordinary citizens should be very grateful that murder and mayhem are going on somewhere else because this permits one to engage in all sorts of petty larcenies and traffic wantonness--sometimes in plain view of police officers--without being hassled by them, such as parking on the wrong side of a street, driving the wrong way on a one-way street, etc.

*Loss of confidence in politics and politicians is one reason the US has such a low voter turn-out. In the 1994 election, it was 39%, slightly up from 37% in 1990 (AP in SHJ, 10 Nov. 94).

*Generally, people have no idea how high the costs per cast vote in US elections are. In a 1994 election in the county in which Syracuse is located, only 11% of eligible registered voters voted. The cost of holding the vote ended up averaging out to \$11 per vote cast, and if one adds in the sums spent by the candidates on their campaigns, plus additional overhead costs of voting, the cost per vote was probably close to \$25 (SHJ, 15/9/94).

*One of the signs of the collapse of the US public education system is that parochial schools have been graduating better-prepared pupils at about half the cost per pupil (Time, 27/5/91). However, the number of children going to such schools has been declining as more and more of them have been closing.

*Health workers in Syracuse were rather indifferent when they were told that the public had lost confidence in health professionals, because they were able to counter that recent polls had shown that Americans had lost confidence in most things anyway. However, while one of the many things with which 68% of people are dissatisfied are other people's standards of honesty and ethics, the polls have also shown that the very same people are quite willing to lie and cheat for their own advantage, underlining once again the peculiar schizophrenia that has taken hold in at least the US mentality (SHJ, 17/9/93).

*We learned (SHJ, 30/9/94) that in the past 150 years, Bolivia has had 190 rulers. This threw us into great consternation because we simply could not figure out whether this was good news or bad news.

*"People from the underclass may steal one's car, disfigure the city streets, and burden one's tax bill with the unfortunate consequences of their lifestyle. But it is people from the cultural elite who are miseducating one's children, imposing intolerable burdens of government interference on the economy, institutionalizing a strange American replica of the Hindu caste system in politics and law, and creating a joyless world in which the most fundamental human relations, those between the sexes and the generations, are more and more poisoned" (First Things, 2/95, p.17).

*It is a strange paradox that the closer things come to a collapse of the financial system of the world, the higher the stocks rise, hitting an astronomic 5000 on the Dow-Jones index in 11/95.

*There were 1200 varieties of derivatives in early 1995, and few people understood much about them. Bodies that invested in them included a whole cross-section of US corporate identity, ranging from many public government units at all levels, including states and local school districts, to banks and federal credit unions all the way to colleges, symphony orchestras and human service charities. Losses for many of these bodies have been staggering, from \$1.3 billion at the top, with many losing hundreds of millions. The next post-primary production market in all of this will be cleaning up the mess left behind by all the losses and bankruptcies, and undoubtedly a great many law suits.

*The bankruptcy of Orange County was the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history. Bizarrely, Orange County, California, is one of the richest counties in the US.

*In early 1995, when a major financial crisis developed in Mexico, the US government was prepared overnight to shell out as much as \$50 billion to bail out the peso, and an incompetent and corrupt regime. At the same time, the government had proposed not even \$1 billion for aid to the former Soviet countries. One critic noted that the message was that there was an American interest about Mexico, and none about the former Soviet Union (AP in SHJ, 17/2/95). Of course, one reason the US was so ready to bail out the Mexican currency is that Wall Street is thereby protected from extensive losses, and world financial collapse has been narrowly postponed yet once again (Newsweek, 6 Feb. 95).

*Criminal computer hackers are robbing banks blind by computer money thefts. Russians have been particularly good at stealing money via computer from banks all over the world. Citibank alone was robbed of \$12 million in one single scoop in 1994.

*We continue to warn that the US is drifting toward a military dictatorship of some kind. Rather ominously, until now, the US military has been the least dysfunctional large-scale social structure in American society.

However, Newsweek (24/7/95) reported that even the military is increasingly being infiltrated by members of the major criminal street gangs of our larger cities, bringing to military life and the housing of military personnel such things as drive-by shootings, killing of entire families in connection with drug wars, theft of weapons and explosives, etc.

*As Americans lose trust in social institutions, the military is the one institution in which they still trust, which is of course a very ominous phenomenon, as we have pointed out repeatedly, presaging the likelihood of an eventual military-type takeover of governance in the US. From the mid-1970s, until 1986, religion had the highest confidence of the people. In 1994, the military was rated higher than organized religion, with respective confidence levels of 64% and 54%. Because on TV shows, the police usually win against criminals, police are as highly held in esteem as clergy now. Strangely enough, the social institution that is doing more to form the minds of Americans than any other, i.e., the news media, is held in relatively low esteem. Congress and the criminal justice system are near the bottom (SHJ, 25/6/94).

*One ominous trend that continues is for the military to fund civilian projects, such as breast cancer research (at several hundred million dollars), research on Lyme disease and AIDS, and drug law enforcement.

*The militarization of the police is not only a US phenomenon, but has been occurring in many other nations as well, including in Russia. However, many elements of this militarization have first been piloted and demonstrated in the US.

News of the Season

*The first Christmas concert in Syracuse in 1993 took place on 19 November! More and more, things are no longer observed at their proper time, which contributes to people becoming disoriented and crazy.

*We reported before that the US Marine Reserves have been running a "Toys for Tots" Christmas drive for years. They raised \$10 million in 1992 and '93, but none of the money was used to buy toys because it failed to even cover the cost of running a direct-mail appeal, and possibly because of financial irregularities by the foundation operating the appeal. One problem was that the foundation seemed to lack any kind of documentation of its finances. Its president was dismissed after having been convicted of tax evasion and involvement in counterfeiting (AP in SHJ, 10 Feb. 93). Since we reported on this last year, Toys for Tots parties and donations have actually increased, but in Branford, Connecticut, \$20,000 of toys donated to the program were stolen. We would say that Toys For Tots is jinxed.

*For 1995, two women started publishing a picture calendar called "Beautiful Faces," with a picture of a different attractive child each month. Each child had Down's syndrome, which was not mentioned in the calendar. The idea was to shape public attitudes. Another woman, a photographer who has a daughter with Down's syndrome, has brought out such a calendar for 1996, called "Down Right Beautiful." It can be ordered (\$14.95 + tax + shipping) from 1-800-792-6099. Apparently, this is becoming a yearly project.

*In the Netherlands, dealers in legalized drugs (heroin, etc.) have been allowed to write off purchases of guns and dogs for their protection as business expenses (European, 11/94; clipping from Peter Millier).

*O ierum ierum ierum, o quae mutatio rerum. In 1637, Descartes devised a new philosophical system by starting with the axiom, cogito ergo sum ("I cogitate (think), therefore I am"). In 1991, a reader of US News & World Report (22/4/91) said (in reference to questionable census counts) she had a social security number and filed income tax reports, and was therefore reasonably certain she existed.

Social Advocacy

The issue of social advocacy seems to fit well with our usual December issue topics. Our last major coverage of this topic had been in the 10/84 issue, so there is much catching up to do.

The Need for Good Social Advocacy

*We recently heard of an incidence in which a severely retarded non-verbal man was gang-raped. He was unable to communicate what had happened, and his efforts to do so resulted in his being interpreted as having a "psychotic break," even though it was discovered that he needed 5 stitches to repair his anus.

*David Wetherow related to us the story of a young Winnipeg woman who had become disabled in an auto accident on her honeymoon, and then learned to use a communications device even though her father had opposed it, thinking his daughter was neither capable of learning to use it, nor interested in it. One day, her by-then-estranged husband recruited two off-duty Chicago policemen, came to Winnipeg, kidnapped her, and tried to abduct her to the US in order to reap a large pending insurance settlement. An alert US border guard, sensing this non-speaking woman's distress at crossing the border, called the Winnipeg police. A local detective found out that she had a communication device at home, retrieved it, and drove it to the border, where the woman declared in no uncertain terms that she did not want to go with this man, and wished to return home.

*We have known of a demented old woman in a nursing home whose husband had left her a multi-million dollar estate, who had an executor for his will, and a guardian, but who still got mistreated, and has often been at high risk of death from dehydration and constipation. Her problems are 6-fold. (a) Even good nursing homes are bad. (b) Even if there were total commitment at the top of a nursing home, things at the bottom of it are simply not controllable if the nursing home is any size at all. (c) Despite the fact that there were plenty of assets to hire private caretakers to care for her in the nursing home in addition to nursing home personnel, such caretakers of good quality are hard to find in today's decadent culture. (d) The woman had very few outside contacts. (e) Because of the very fact that she was rich, her heirs wanted her dead. (f) The executorship had changed hands, from an older man who had known her husband to a younger colleague who had no personal interest in her.

*How people can get sucked into the service system, used by it, and then spit out by it, and possibly even made dead, was exemplified by what happened to an old woman of our acquaintance. She was very alone in the world, her relatives being few and far away, and she was badly crippled with arthritis, but received only one hour of home aide service each day. One day, workers from a transport service dropped her(!), and after she spent several days in bed in great pain, they decided to take her to the hospital. The hospital sent her home, but because she was so arthritic, and received so little home help, she began to deteriorate there. So, although she did not need to be in the hospital--what she needed was a lot more help at home--she was returned to the hospital, and since they could not really do anything for her, but could not send her home either, the hospital staff decided to watch to "see if the fall had any impact on her mental state." Because she is also poor, a member of a devalued minority group, and has few teeth, she was not the kind of person that hospital personnel are drawn to in a positive way. So she did not receive good treatment, but was looked upon mostly as something on which to perform medical tests, and then to get rid of as soon as possible by shunting her to a nursing home. All this could have been avoided by providing her with a greater amount of home help each day, particularly after she had been dropped.

*An Australian newspaper article, reprinted in the newsletter of TEC (Training & Evaluation for Change, 1994, no. 21), reported that an elderly man had a home care aide cleaning up his house and supervising his showering for a month--but it was the wrong man. The aide apparently got the address wrong, and had been attending to a man who was not on the client roll, while her official

client had been neglected for four weeks. This little vignette probably illustrates many problems of contemporary human services: how complexity can lead to unmanageability, how literally not knowing one's clients can lead to confusion or worse, how many needy people exist who are not on any client rolls, and how vulnerable are people who are not competent enough themselves, or who do not have competent and alert advocates, to report when an assigned worker fails to appear.

*We were told of a woman in a small institution who had fragile bones, and who should have had a full-size bed with side rails instead of a small-sized one without rails. But simply in order to obtain this small improvement in her life took 5 meetings, involving 30 people that included all the top employees of her institution, bank trustees, members of a human rights committee, and her guardian. This junked the guardian's time, and cost tens of thousands of dollars in salary time (Source information from Wayne Marshall).

*In frustration, a TIPS subscriber sent the following letter to a functionary of an organization dealing with handicapped people.

"This is a followup letter to my followup letter. People, unlike colds, do not just go away if you ignore them because they are too inconvenient. Many disabled people such as myself have no choice but to continue to struggle for a better life even if their existence embarrasses or annoys those who are supposed to be in a position of helping them to attain that better life.

I will continue to call your office several times a week, and to write to you, until I am accorded some common courtesy. For example, if you are unable to help me, you can clearly state this, along with the reason why it is impossible.

No one (except your fellow professionals) expects you to know what you're doing all the time, or to provide a possible solution for every situation. This would be more than human. To treat clients as if they did not exist, however is substantially less than human."

*As described more fully in the vignettes section which is appended at the end of the Learning From Citizen Advocacy book (O'Brien, 1988), a middle-aged man with very severe cerebral palsy had lived in Florida for much of his life. Later, he moved to Savannah, Georgia, with his mother, and upon her death, he moved in with another relative. However, this was not a satisfactory situation, one reason among others being that the bathroom in his relative's place was not equipped so as to enable him to use it independently. When he made contact with the Citizen Advocacy Office in Savannah, he was asked what he would like or needed. He told the CA office representatives of his desire to have a bathroom that he could use by himself. Whereupon the CA coordinator contacted some of this man's former friends in Florida, and three of them came up to Savannah and devoted an entire weekend and all of their voluntary labor to build him a new and accommodating bathroom. While this is a wonderful story of what voluntary relationship commitments can accomplish, and at relatively little expense and in a short period of time, we might also note how absurd was this man's situation prior to the involvement of his friends. It could almost be captured as "I used to live in Florida, then moved to Savannah, but in order to go to the bathroom, I had to get friends to come up from Florida to help me."

*In Syracuse, welfare workers in 1987 had to use 57 forms for different situations, but cases were often held up for long periods because the workers often could not find the forms (Syracuse Herald Journal, 6 September 1987). On the wall of just one single hospital ward in Syracuse in 1988, I noted a form dispenser rack containing about 75 different forms.

*On the news, there was a story about a blind man who was a fan of the Capitols hockey team in Washington, DC. He has "watched" almost every home game that his favorite team has played for the past 12 years. Initially, the blind man used a radio to listen to the broadcast while he was sitting in the stands, but he became unable to continue this because of electrical interference in the arena. So a sighted friend volunteered to help him enjoy the games by sitting with him in the arena and giving him a private play-by-play description of the game as it goes along. This little vignette is striking testimony to the fact that normative and freely-given personalistic relationships can enable

devalued people to participate in many and surprising ways in the ordinary life of the community, where services would be at a loss to do what is needed, or unwilling to do it. How many agencies would send an employee to describe a hockey game to a blind person?

*A person institutionalized at the Frankfort State Hospital and School at age 6 during the 1920s died at a Kentucky nursing home in 1986 at age 75. The State Guardian wrote a very dignified obituary for her which appeared in a newspaper which identified her as a member of the Citizen Advocacy Advisory Committee of the Council for Retarded Citizens. Sadly, the only survivor the announcement was able to list was that of a "a friend"--who happened to be her citizen advocate (Source item from Wayne Marshall).

*Tom Kohler who has directed the Citizen Advocacy Office in Savannah, Georgia, almost as long as we can remember sent us this hand-out his office had prepared, entitled

"...Take Her to Heart..."

26 years old? Nursing home for 8 years? 24 hours a day? 7 days a week? Hardly any family contact? Gets out once or twice a year? Not getting any help with re-learning how to communicate? Roommates, one after another? Groups come to visit, but never to get to know people? Years turn into tens of years.... What's the predictable feature? Let's see if someone can toss a wild card into the predictable deck being dealt....

THE RECRUITMENT: Travis Barlow, a long-time citizen advocate and Pooler businessman, recommended we talk with Ms. Nell Fortner, who works for Marty's Fried Chicken. Tom called and went to visit her at the Marty's on Highway 17. She heard about Faye. Did not feel able. Suggested Ms. Marty Ledford, her boss's wife. Tom called Ms. Ledford and went to visit her at her home in Pooler. She listened carefully but did not feel able. She suggested Ms. Julie Stanley, who lives 3 blocks down from Faye. Tom called; visited; and found Julie interested and willing. Tom shared basic citizen advocacy information, information about Faye's situation, and answered Julie's questions. He asked Julie to think it over for a couple of days. She did, and when Tom called back, Julie said she and her husband had talked, and that Faye needed someone to "take her to heart." They would try.

THE FIRST VISIT: Tom and Julie spend a morning with Faye. We talk about her past. Faye nods and gestures yes, no...to keep the story straight. We talk about likes, dislikes. "Gospel music?" "Yes!" "Rock and roll?" "No!" "Shopping?" "Yes!" "Going to church?" "Yes!" "Is it boring here?" "Yes!" "Do you like kids?" "Yes!" Julie tells of her family, shares ideas. "Can I come and do your hair one day?" and says, "I'll be back; I'm glad I met you!"

THE FIRST FOLLOW-UP: Julie calls the office. Faye's been to a gospel sing, met Marty Ledford, who has been to visit, and been to Sunday school and church; met lots of people. Julie's 2 daughters are visiting almost every day and learning to use and beginning to teach Faye how to use her otherwise untouched computer. Julie has done her hair,...and is curious about long-neglected dental work,...and sad about the food at the nursing home,...and starting a list of concerns to go over with the social worker....

It's going to be interesting to see how Julie, this ordinary person, this wild card, might change the hand that Faye is holding.....

*One citizen advocate kept track of all the human service workers of which she was aware who had passed in and out of her 26-year-old protégé's life in the 5-1/2 years that she had known him: the tally was 113 direct service workers, and 11 physicians! This kind of figure should give us just an inkling of the tremendous amount of relationship discontinuity which is typical in the lives of devalued people--and remember, these were just the ones that she knew of! (Vignette submitted by Oxana Metiuk.) The vignette should also strike a profound sense of shame and remorse in service workers who lightly abandon one handicapped person or client group after another, in pursuit of a better position, more status, etc.

*In 6/93, a case came before the US Supreme Court on the question whether a mentally retarded person for whom an institutional commitment is sought should receive the same, or

different, procedural protection than people with other impairments. Almost anyone who was anyone in mental retardation entered the case arguing for the same procedural protections, but we are not at all convinced that the situation of retarded people is identical to that of mentally disordered or senile ones. After all, in connection with Social Role Valorization, we teach about the "heightened vulnerability" of devalued people, calling for the "conservatism corollary" way of doing things.

*One persistent problem in many countries, such as the US, has been that the legal rights of criminal offenders have expanded much more than those of impaired people, so that by 1987, critics could say that impaired elderly people had fewer rights in a courtroom than criminal offenders (AP in Syracuse Herald Journal, 23/9/87).

Social Advocacy Forms

*A "representative payee" system has been in existence in the US for over 50 years, but in recent years, there have been considerable increases in problems with it. For instance, one of the most spectacular cases of representative payee fraud was that of Dorothea Puente in Sacramento, California, who was suspected of having murdered at least 9 tenants of her boarding house while functioning as representative payee for one of them, and who earlier had had 30 convictions of Social Security fraud (AARP Bulletin, 11/89).

*A provision that has become increasingly popular in recent years is the so-called "power of attorney." An individual can draw up a power of attorney that designates another person or persons to handle finances, or make certain personal decisions, on one's behalf. One advantage is that a power of attorney is very simple, easy and quick to draw up, in contrast to a conservatorship on one's behalf, which may take years and be quite costly. Another advantage is that the individual at issue can specify precisely what powers are being delegated, for how long, and under what circumstances. Since these powers may deal with the management of properties and possessions, or even with medical decision-making if one should become incapacitated, they have some resemblance to several major types of guardianship arrangements, except that unlike with guardianships, there is no system of supervision for those who hold someone else's power of attorney. Also, not all banks or societal institutions may recognize a power of attorney.

*One special type of guardianship corporation without guardianships has arisen out of the concerns of elderly people. A voluntary agency is set up which draws up durable powers of attorney with elderly people who see themselves at risk of incapacitation. These powers are conferred upon the organization. In turn, the organization recruits volunteers both from its contractees who are still competent and from among family members, and when a person becomes incapacitated, two such volunteers are assigned to carry out the terms of the previously-drawn up power of attorney. In turn, their actions and decisions are reviewed monthly by the board of directors.

This sort of arrangement is most feasible in retirement communities where there is a dense concentration of people willing to sign up, as well as to serve as volunteers and board members, and where such individuals have a great deal of time available to do the work of the organization. Thus, in Tempe, Arizona, there is a well-known such organization, called Concerned Friends, that has contracts with 160 residents of a retirement community that as of 1987 had 700 residents (AP in SHJ, 25/9/87).

*In 1978, Inspector Generalships were created as a safeguard on various departments of the executive branch of the US government. Twenty-three such positions were set up and given considerable independence and autonomy. While they have certainly worked to the good, what has been surprising is that they have not been much more impactful than they have. For instance, there has been an inspector general for the Department of Housing and Urban Development who became well aware of malfeasance in this department before it became public in 1989, but who apparently did no more than warn the secretary of the department--who simply ignored the warning (Time, 9 Oct. 89).

*In 1991, the government of the Canadian province of British Columbia announced the institution of a governmental office of the "Advocate for Service Quality." In essence, this is an inspector general of the government directly under the Minister of Health who receives information or complaints from citizens and service users, and mediates between service providers and service users, conducting impartial reviews when necessary and making recommendations to the ministry.

*The public guardian scheme conducted by the Office of the Public Advocate in the Australian state of Victoria was heavily based on that of Alberta. Yet already in 1989, shortly after its initiation, one of the people working for it told us that he had supervisory or wardship responsibilities for 150 people, and commonly worked up to 90 hours a week. Indeed, he looked totally worn out and said that he would probably have to quit his job because of his health. This vignette exemplifies both that there is something like a bottomless pit of advocacy need, and that good or at least viable schemes can lose their effectiveness by being deployed mindlessly.

*In 1983, a senior citizen "advocacy division" was launched in the Attorney General's office of Illinois, with toll-free phone lines at two locations. Among other things, the office discovered that insurance firms were fraudulently misrepresenting insurance policies to older people and billing them \$10,000 at a clip.

*An Associated Press series on shortcomings of guardianship for the elderly in Fall 1987 was widely carried nationwide, and galvanized numerous states into passing all sorts of relevant legislation, though it remains to be seen whether this will do any good. One common response has been for a state to allocate funds to subsidize private guardianship services, generally of a staffed and collective rather than individualized nature (AP in SHA, 27/3/88).

*An AP series in the Syracuse Herald Journal (9/87) on the legal status of elderly people brought out the following facts. The number of people under court-established guardianship in the US is remarkably large. In 1987, 25,000 adults were under either guardianship or conservatorship, or both, in Michigan alone. Also, 124,000 people being served by US Veterans Administration Hospitals were under some form of guardianship, which supposedly were monitored, but not conducted, by the VA itself. A common experience of adults is that once a court puts them under some kind of guardianship, it is very difficult to have the guardianship order voided later once they regain their lost capacities. Theoretically, courts are supposed to supervise guardianships, but in one survey, little or no supervision occurred in 48% of the cases. One RI probate judge said "I don't know where the wards are, who is caring for them, what they are doing. I have no support staff, no welfare workers, no aides, no assistants, and no money." Investigations of the conservatorship for elderly people discovered a pattern of horror stories. Exploitation of the estates of the elderly was practiced not only by relatives but also by lawyers, judges, and accountants. Some professional guardianship services have been found to bill the estates of their wards as much as \$65 for an hour's work. Some such guardianship entrepreneurs have responsibility for up to 400 wards. Obviously, they are only interested in the wards that have worthwhile estates.

*We learned the following up-lifting vignette from the president of the Nebraska ARC. A confused and frightened farm couple had been told that their newborn and only child had Down's syndrome and was retarded. The ARC provided them with information, encouragement, and contact with parents from the same area to provide them support over a period of two years. The family made a good adjustment, and the child developed very well. One day, the young couple walked into the ARC office, proudly displaying their two-year-old child who was acting pretty much like other two-year-olds. The parents thanked the ARC folks, saying "We couldn't have done it without you...the ARC was there when we needed it. You kept our family together. You gave us hope." This vignette illustrates one of the major things ARCs should be all about.

*A 1983 book, entitled Roxene, is the first full-length book about a citizen advocacy relationship (Detselig Enterprises, PO Box G399, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 2G3). The book describes how a woman functioned successfully as a citizen advocate to a severely retarded

adolescent Indian girl (Roxene) whose problems and demands were such as would have defeated the vast majority of advocates, and did in fact defeat the efforts of the agency service system. She was one of those persons whom one meets occasionally who have been so badly wounded that they turn around and disable all the relationships and arrangements in their environments upon which they touch. Because they are so successful at this, people in their environments commonly wish them dead, and often they do, in fact, get made dead. This advocate turned out to be the one person in Roxene's life who refused to be defeated, and her fidelity is what brought a healing miracle in Roxene's life, underlining that so often, it is only this kind of relationship that can heal the deeply wounded.

This is an excellent book to read about Citizen Advocacy in action--but it is not a good book to ask persons to read who are just thinking about becoming advocates or who are in the early stages of an advocacy relationship. The book could leave the impression that what this advocate did is expected of all advocates, or that all advocates could do the same if only they tried hard enough.

The book also illustrated the point that many problems can only be adaptively addressed if they are addressed within a communal context. Thus, this advocate would probably have gone under if she, in turn, had not had the practical support of certain other people outside the paid agency domain.

*During World War I, Australian troops suffered horrendous casualties. A few years after they returned home, the veterans formed an organization which eventually came to be called Legacy. Under its auspices, veterans began to be matched with widows and orphans of the war, and to address their needs in a way that was often very similar to Citizen Advocacy. They would conduct friendly visiting with the households bereft of husband and/or father, help widows with all sorts of problems, and see to all sorts of needs of the children, including that they would have a decent education and participation in youthful activities which they otherwise might be denied from lack of money, such as going to camps. The wives of the veterans also pitched in. Various safeguards were built in so as to avoid inappropriate entanglements between a male friendly visitor and the women in the homes visited. These kinds of activities resumed once again with renewed impetus after World War II. One of the amazing things about Legacy is that it was so widely spread across Australia, and yet that it was almost entirely run on a voluntary basis.

Several books have been written about Legacy, and one of them came into our possession during our 1992 trip to Australia.

Altogether, from what we have read and heard about this enterprise, it sounded like one of the more successful schemes in its class during the 20th century.

*A modest proposal. When a problem arises in society, one or more associations commonly form to address it. When a particular association feels that it is not getting far enough on its own, it is apt to form a coalition. Since more and more problems arise while fewer and fewer are being solved even by coalitions, it has not been uncommon for coalitions to form coalitions. Quite obviously, it follows that what is needed is a coalition of coalitions of coalitions of associations of individual members, since nothing else has worked.

*One highly specialized advocacy group in California are the Lesbian Zionists for Peace (Time, 18/11/91).

Miscellaneous Advocacy News

*One of our friends has noted that one big problem that arises when the parental/decision-making role over a person is adopted or filled by either the state (as when a person becomes a ward of the state), or by a paid worker (as when a person is under the management control of paid human service workers), is that neither type of parent substitute loves the person. Certainly, the state cannot and does not; and even where a paid worker feels genuine affection for a person, the person is under all sorts of constraints tied to his/her reimbursement for the work that limit what he/she can do. And without love, the power that parents (including substitute parents) have over their children or wards becomes destructive.

*A Citizen Advocacy coordinator from Georgia made the observation in 1988 that the typical parent of a handicapped person is concerned to make provisions for the person's future, but when the state is the "parent" of the handicapped person, it does not.

*Advocates need to keep in mind that not every person should be an advocate, and not every position related to people at risk should be interpreted as entailing advocacy. There is a need and a place for positions whose explicit and primary purpose is to be impartial, rather than partisan. Examples are mediators (as in labor relations) and judges.

However, today, many people seem to have forgotten that, and therefore try to co-opt every position to be one that represents their (or at least some party's) interests. For instance, the president of the Hispanic National Bar Association called in April 1993 for a Hispanic judge on the US Supreme Court so that Hispanic-Americans would have "a voice at the nation's highest level of the legal system" (AP in SHJ, 7 April 1993). To us, this sounds like he wanted a private defense attorney, rather than a judge.

*A few year ago, the Disability Rag raised a provocative issue. Suppose a mentally competent but physically totally incapacitated adult wants a pornographic magazine and asks his/her attendant to get it. If the attendant refuses, then the person's rights have supposedly been denied. However, the Rag apparently ignored the rights of a human service worker to abstain from doing something they consider to be immoral, in obedience to their own conscience (source item furnished by Zana Lutfiyya).

*The apparent erosion in voluntarism in our self-centered society is also underlined by a decline in pro-bono work (unpaid legal work on behalf of the poor) by lawyers. Of the private attorneys in the US, only 18% perform such, and as Time (20/6/88) put it: "plenty of lawyers do well; few do good."

*Conrad, W. R., & Glenn, W. E. (1983). The effective voluntary board of directors: What it is and how it works (rev. ed.). Chicago: Swallow Press. This is a good technical handbook on boards of voluntary associations and their functioning. It spells out the board's functions (including planning, policy implementation, resource development, and management of finances and personnel), gives pointers on how to conduct board meetings and committee work, and other very practical tips on such issues as minimizing tension between staff and board members, and explains some common problems of boards.

*We must hand it to the French, especially when they are firemen: they really have gallantry when it comes to rescuing women from burning buildings. In Lille, a 450-pound woman jumped from the second story of a burning building--and a fireman unhesitatingly extended his arms to receive her. She got away with only minor bruises, he was instantly crushed to death and accorded a hero's burial (Sun, 25/11/86).

*We have been told that in the relatively small city of St. Albans in northern Vermont, more than 400 people have come to local Citizen Advocacy office annual international dinner fund-raisers.

*During just one six-month period, 3 citizen advocates in the Macon-Bibb area of Georgia have invited their protégés to live with them in their own homes (Source item from Barbara Fisher).

*Time (23/4/84) ran a very funny essay on every conceivable special interest group being exceedingly touchy on how it is portrayed in the media, and often going to absurd extremes. Psychiatrists object to "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," Orientals to Charlie Chan movies, and congressional hearings were demanded to see whether Verdi's opera "Rigoletto" was offensive to Italian-Americans. Cubans objected to a film version of "Scarface," but appeared somewhat appeased when its Jewish producer pointed out that it had more crooked Jews in it than Cubans. The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was not amused by Wendy's "Where's the Beef"

commercial, because it might give the impression that "elderly people, in particular women, are senile, deaf, and had difficulty seeing." In contrast, the Gray Panthers were pleased that the commercial showed women unwilling to be quiet victims of a hamburger scam. If villains are portrayed as anything but middle-aged, middle-sized heterosexual males, the producing medium is in trouble, though even there it is not safe from attacks by the Media Institute, a conservative pro-business lobby that thinks that rich and business people are unduly depicted as villains. The 1979 film "Voices" hired deaf actors and had a deaf professor as a technical advisor, and was probably about as positive about deaf people as the media are capable of portraying--but the film was boycotted by the deaf community because the main heroine was not deaf, leaving one to wonder whether MGM was being punished for making a positive film about deaf people. A coven of witches objected to the film "Rosemary's Baby" in which the devil sired a baby. A marine biologist protested the negative image of sharks projected in "Jaws," and UFO enthusiasts were up in arms because a space alien on "Fernwood Night" was depicted as ravaging humans. The National Association to Aid Fat Americans protested against the movie "Fatso," but also objected to a diet Pepsi ad campaign for showing what it called "emaciated, almost anorectic women."

The article projected some scenarios of how the media, intimidated by all of this, might respond in the future. Tom Sawyer might depict Injun Joe as a deaf brain surgeon and weekend spelunker who is falsely accused of hanky panky with feminist attorney Becky Thatcher. In the "Public Enemy's Kiss of Death," a mentally alert lady in the wheelchair, fresh from running the Boston marathon, shoves an able-bodied middle-aged man down a flight of stairs and justifies it as retribution for centuries of male oppression. "The Godfather" will contain no one of Italian extraction, nor will the underworld in Dante's "Inferno." In "The Back of Notre Dame" a handsome football star on vacation in France saves a competent but unfairly bound and gagged professional woman from the hands of a maddened Parisian mob, even though he has lower back pains. The film will be hailed as "a real bell-ringer" by Father Hesburgh.

Self-Advocacy

*A major reason why so-called self-advocacy became so popular since the mid-1970s is that it resonates with the rise of radical self-determination, modernistic divisioning of people and segmentation of reality, and modernistic abdication of mutual responsibility.

We have heard the speculation that a lot of people have begun to lionize self-advocacy by competency-impaired people because other forms of advocacy simply have not been able to keep things from going from bad to worse. One must not interpret this latter fact as a "failure" of other advocacies, but as simply the way our society has chosen to go, and nothing short of a reversal of this societal decision will be able to succeed. As it is, it must be clear that we can expect no more (and usually much less) from so-called self-advocacies than from other efforts, though perhaps the single biggest contribution that the self-advocacy movement has made to the scene is that it has contributed to a lot of consciousness-raising.

Is there anything good about self-advocacy? In principle, yes; but if people's motivation for promoting it spring primarily from the above dynamics, then the TIPS editor would rather have one-sided advocacy for needy people by other people sustained by selflessness.

*One perversion of the term self-advocacy is that often it does not refer to any form of advocacy at all, self or otherwise, but to merely being a member of a social group consisting of other handicapped people, and engaging in (probably segregated) social and recreational activities with them. This example is particularly striking in illustrating how well-meaning advocates of handicapped people can play into the hands of the empire by contributing to the systematic debasement of any kind of advocacy concept--all in a good cause.

*An illustration of how a great deal of self-advocacy rhetoric these days is phony and contrived took place when a member of a "Speaking for Ourselves" group called up an advocacy office and requested that it arrange the meeting of the "self-advocates."

*Yet another human service fraud being perpetrated is to go to people who lack even the most basic amenities, including freedom and a humane living environment, and to teach them "self-advocacy" by "teachers" who won't raise a finger to advocate on their behalf (vignette provided by Bill McCord).

*An international authority came to Syracuse during the 1980s to give a presentation on self-advocacy. The TIPS editor had hoped to attend the event, not so much because of the topic as to see this highly-respected person again whom he had known for a long time. However, one reason he was not able to attend was that he was part of a circle of people who had taken turns for three months sitting around-the-clock at the bedside of a mentally retarded friend, to a large extent in an advocacy role. The person had died and was to be buried the day the speech was scheduled to be given, and the TIPS editor was too drained by the burial to also attend the presentation.

This event was merely one of innumerable ones in the experience of the TIPS editor where everybody talks about self-advocacy, but when somebody desperately needs some of the hardest kinds of advocacy from others, these others are very hard to find. The retarded, otherwise handicapped or devalued people are in absolutely desperate straits when they have to be in a hospital, and many of them die alone or have only paid medical people around. Many actually get made dead because of their defenselessness. In one case, we were desperately trying to maintain an around-the-clock bedside advocacy for such a person while only a few blocks away, a vast army of nonhandicapped people were involved in the Special Olympics. The TIPS editor could not help but wonder, with a touch of bitterness, how many of these do-gooders would be by the side of any of the retarded athletes when things got really rough.

*An increasing number of radical advocates on behalf of retarded people are developing a slight case of schizophrenia. One the one hand, they are vehement that retarded people should not be grouped with other retarded people in education and work, and with no more than perhaps two others in housing. On the other hand, they are in favor of retarded people getting together in large "self-advocacy" groups, and going to conventions where there may be hundreds of such persons congregated together.

*People differ widely in how they respond to afflictions in life. Some become embittered and hateful, and some of these band together with each other, and/or publish periodicals characterized by bitterness or even hatred. This is understandable--but not good for anybody. It is groups such as these whose advocacy can be very irrational and counterproductive. Sometimes, it serves more the function of making the advocates feel good by getting a good "flame" at others than to achieve a real goal.

Sometimes, so-called "self-advocacy" by handicapped and other devalued people actually takes the form of a very irrational assertiveness, and/or even unpleasant aggressiveness, toward non-handicapped society. In fact, some so-called self-advocacy groups either started out, or eventually became, overtly antagonistic towards non-handicapped persons. Some would not permit non-handicapped persons to join as members of the advocacy organization or not even in fellowship with them. Often, out of their own woundedness, they will indiscriminately denigrate and even attack non-handicapped persons who speak on their behalf.

These realities gave us images of some such self-advocacy groups developing fantasies such as mounting a war on the non-handicapped populace, with themselves the victors and non-handicapped people the vanquished. For instance, we can imagine a self-advocacy group of the physically handicapped lining up wheelchairs to form barricades, and lobbing grenades from behind the lines. Blind people could be the ears of the deaf, and the deaf could be the eyes for the blind, in helping each other to target the enemy and to avoid incoming missiles. With all the remarkable technological equipment available nowadays, even some of the most severely physically handicapped people might be able to join the battle directly, and could certainly use their equipment, such as their crutches or wheelchairs, as weaponry--as assertiveness training courses have told them to do. People in automated wheelchairs could use their "joy sticks" (which are used to guide and direct their chairs) to launch missiles from a distance. Surely, many self-advocacy groups would get a charge

out of this idea!

When one reads the unrelenting bitterness and hatred in publications by and for handicapped people, such as The Disability Rag, one can even envision such a group making a movie along these lines--"Rambo Without Legs," or "The Triumph of the Crippled Brigade."

*Apparently, an English journalist referred to mentally handicapped people who try to fend on their own as "loonies lib" (CMH Newsletter, Fall 84). Perhaps this journalist had witnessed the worser kinds of self-advocacy.

Orientation and Skill Development for Competency-Impaired People for Long-Term Valued Participation at Public Forums

Based on observations of so-called self-advocates at public events, we compiled the following list of recommendations as to what such groups and their advisors should include in the orientation and education of people for greater credibility and effectiveness in self-advocacy at public meetings.

1. Where people are intellectually limited, it can be enormously productive if advisors and friends provide orientation to an event beforehand, and interpretation of it afterwards.

2. The educational process should emphasize the importance of maintaining personal hygiene in public places and vis-à-vis other people, lest credibility, social acceptance, and effectiveness be impaired. This includes not coughing and sneezing without putting a handkerchief before one's mouth, washing one's hands after toileting, and being clean of habits when one takes food from where other people also take it, as at wine and cheese parties. And after having sneezed into one's hand or wiped a runny nose with it, one should not shake hands or touch other people, but go and wash the hands.

3. Very annoying to people can be a habit relatively often observed among handicapped people participating in public events, namely, the latter being constantly on the move, possibly darting in and out of meeting rooms numerous times. If a person cannot control this habit, they should be advised to take a seat in the back rather than in the front so as to keep the commotion to a minimum.

4. So-called self-advocates are sometimes whipped into such a frenzy of public participation by their advisors that they will dominate public discussions or question periods after somebody's presentation. Consciousness on this issue should be raised, including the point that the larger the group is in which one participates, the more circumspect one should be as to how much time one takes up. However, the issue is not just one of taking up single long chunks of time, but also taking up a very disproportionate amount of time during repeated discussion periods. This becomes justified particularly annoying to others if the self-advocates demand--or even hi-jack--the floor after having missed much of a presentation or event, perhaps because of constant cruising in and out of the room.

Not-So-Good Advocacies

Not all social advocacy is commendable, or free of serious problems, as illustrated below.

*We have often commented in our training events that concern with the autonomy and rights of devalued people can be taken to a perverse extreme--and these days, often is--involving a strident and hostile demand that all devalued people should get whatever they want (or at least what they call their rights), now, all at once, regardless of cost to anyone else, including society as a whole. This was anticipated by a famous French mentally disordered woman, Clarin de Breujere, who wrote in 1901 about her six months in a Paris insane asylum. Her motto, emblazoned on a coat-of-arms which she designed for herself, was "My Rights or I Bite" (Source item: Felton & Fowler, 1975).

*In the empowerment, self-determination and rights circles, a new mythology is being taught that need-based service approaches have been tried and failed, and that this is why there should be a shift to a rights-based and/or power-based strategy.

Aside from the fact that there are intrinsic reasons why by itself, an empowerment and rights strategy is defective, the claim that previous service patterns have been needs-based, and that this

is the reason they failed, is outright false. First of all, imperial human services have never been genuinely needs-oriented, and by nature cannot be. Instead, they have a long history of reflecting societal devaluation of the groups at issue, and using human services as a legitimate means for transacting this devaluation.

Further, an imperial society or service system is as incapable of being genuinely empowering to the lowly as it is incapable of being needs-based. Imperiality lives off social stratification. If it appears to be empowering of the lowly, then the appearance is bound to be false, and the empire "knows" something that the euphoric rights people are missing. So far, the empire has known the following thing that the rights people have missed: what the rights people have seen as successful rights-based strategies have actually had a disastrous "dumping," abandonment and death-making impact on large numbers of competency-impaired people. After all, a self-determination strategy leaves people largely to their own devices, and the "devices" that many have are simply insufficient for competent and adaptive autonomy.

*The British National Union of Teachers has come out with one of those modernistic-crazy statements about "disability." It blames religion as one of the major causes of people's negative attitudes toward retarded and "disabled" people, states that liberation "must be led by the oppressed themselves," and that "children with disabilities and learning difficulties should be empowered." (The phrase, "people with learning difficulties," is the current politically correct British way of saying "retarded," at least for the next few days.) Here, we recall Mao's dictum that power comes from the barrel of a gun, and we can see all the retarded children in the schools being issued guns by the teacher's union. The statement also claims that society's majority must be "embarrassed...into policy changes," which according to our own teaching is never going to be the way it will happen. The ideology noted above is also allied (by explicit statement by one of the authors of the above document) with the vocal homosexual sector that interprets anyone who considers homosexuality to be an objective disorder to be among the oppressors (source material supplied by Celeste Hinds).

*When mentally retarded or even comatose people are being "read their rights" in human services, it reminds us of the American Indians being read their rights by Spanish authorities in the early 1500s, as their crown required of them, even though most of the Indians gathered for these occasions did not understand Spanish, and were enslaved both before and after having their rights read to them.

*Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States. (1988). Values and principles guiding establishment of corporate guardianship programs: Conference report, June 1988. Arlington, Texas: Author. This is a very problematic document, for many reasons. One of the major principles underlying any kind of guardianship-type scheme should be that the degree of formalism built into the arrangement should neither be such as to become an obstacle to the arrangement itself, nor should the imposition of formalisms across an entire class of arrangements be such as to deprive that class of arrangements of viability as a class, even if not in each specific instance. Unfortunately, in decades of futile scrambles for the perfect type of guardianship-related provision, with one option after another revealing its shortcomings, the response--typical of our society and its mentality--has often been to pile formalistic safeguards on top of each other, thus often disabling even whatever viability a measure might have had. For instance, one recommendation (e.g., ARC, 1988) has been to require that guardianships be "bonded." This only makes sense where the guardianship is over a considerable estate.

Another mindless recommendation commonly encountered (e.g., endorsed by the Association for Retarded Citizens of the US in 1984) is that the necessity for guardianship should be evaluated annually. Conceivably, the conduct of a guardianship should be reviewed annually, but it is really absurd to require the bureaucratism of an annual review of its necessity in cases where it is clear that the impaired person is very seriously impaired mentally (perhaps profoundly retarded), and where it is also clear that not remarkable improvement can be expected over the short run, or even ever, as exemplified by a profoundly retarded person who has always been profoundly retarded and who is now elderly.

*A manual entitled, How to Provide for Their Future, published in its 6th edition in 1989 by the Association for Retarded Citizens of the US, has a section on guardianship and advocacy. It is also a good example of a hyper-legal approach, and of faith in Caesar and mammon. It has a section on legal advocacy, and one on "other advocacy" under which it covers self-advocacy. Citizen Advocacy was not mentioned, and in the list of references and resources, none of the Citizen Advocacy-related publications were included, nor Wolfensberger's monograph on advocacy and protection schemas, nor the Association's own publications on Citizen Advocacy. All this even though at one time, the Association had a huge membership from the Citizen Advocacy area, with its own division in the Association.

*For several hundred years, if one had asked people knowledgeable in the history of education of handicapped people what might have been the greatest feat in that history, the most common answer one would probably have been given would have been that it was teaching the deaf to speak. With the societal value of individualism finding its way among the handicapped, aggressive movements among them have sprung up which often returned the rejection and discrimination directed at them from the larger society via counter-rejection, even hatred, and sometimes peculiar historical revisionisms. At present, adults deaf from birth may be one of the most conflicted handicapped groups on the contemporary scene. One of the many conflicts and controversies in that area is that a significant segment of the deaf population have come to denounce efforts to enable deaf people to hear or speak, and many congenitally deaf people have begun to resent efforts to restore at least some useful hearing via electronic implants to people who lost their hearing early in life. This group of objectors apparently feels that if some of their fellow deaf regain hearing, they themselves will be "left behind" and become more isolated.

There has even been intense hostility directed by deaf people at other deaf people who try to speak in public. These militants interpret a deaf person wanting to learn to speak as being the result of brainwashing by the hearing society.

There is now a significant segment among the deaf, their service workers and their allies, who are fervently committed to the establishment of a segregated deaf culture. This is exemplified by a book (Growing Old in Silence) which in so many words says, "look how good segregation for the deaf is when they get old." The main thesis of the book is that when ordinary people get old, they become isolated, whereas when deaf people get old, they maintain their contacts with the other deaf people who formed part of their earlier segregated social circles. A pretty sad rationale.

All this demonstrates once again that profound conflicts of interests can prevail among spokespersons for disadvantaged and/or oppressed groups that set them against some of their own fellows, and that what one segment of such a minority may say it wants cannot be assumed to be what another wants--or that what either wants is necessarily best or moral.

*Both in TIPS and in our teaching, we comment occasionally how the equal rights movement can go to insane extremes. An example was a blind couple who got airline seats next to an emergency exit, and when they were asked to move to another seat, they refused to budge. They actually won a court case that said that denying them emergency exit seats would be discrimination. Such "winnings" do not win friends and advocates. Also, quite frankly, the TIPS editor, who flies frequently, would prefer to have the seats next to the emergency exits--if not occupied by airline personnel--then at least occupied by people whose minds, bodies, and senses are all in good shape.

*We have been told that in Australia, it is now required that there be a 51% "Client participation" in the management of human services. We approve heartily of a great range of client participations, and not only in management, but we disapprove of hard formulas. They add yet another formalization to the innumerable others that continue to spring up in human services. Also, we do not believe that a single formula can be appropriate in each case.

Degradations or Subversions of, or Attacks on, Social Advocacy Enterprises

*A legal aid lawyer in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had been lining up with women on welfare and the rights of single fathers against the conservative provincial government. Just as he won a case before the provincial supreme court, the government cut off its \$70,000 grant to the legal aid office, and set up a rival legal aid office which it endowed with--\$240,000 (CP, in Saint John Telegraph Journal, 17/10/87).

*Unexplicated assumptions are rather amusingly revealed in the title of a 1986 book, The Perils of Patient Government. We could almost see the sweat pearls of fear on the foreheads of human service workers afraid of client empowerment of any kind. But who has ever heard of a book entitled The Perils of Human Services Being Managed by Professionals? Or even The Perils of Government Operation of Human Services?

*To our amazement, we have learned that there is such a thing as "patient advocate therapy."

*We were informed that Portland State University in Oregon is operating a "therapeutic case advocacy" project which includes an emphasis on "inter-agency collaboration" (Source item from Hank Bersani who added a painful "aughh!!!" to the information, which is probably several aughhs and exclamation marks short).

*A woman who was kept in a mental institution in Boston for 17 years, supposedly in consequence of a misdiagnosis, took a job in 1988 as the chief spokesperson for that self-same institution, and to participate in the training of its personnel. To us, this seems like another example of the co-optation of a potential independent advocate (USA Today, 25/11/88; source item from Joe Osburn).

*An investigation found that the Niagara County (NY) Association for Retarded Children had engaged in shady real estate transactions (that cost the public several hundreds of thousands of dollars) for properties not well suited to their service purposes, while clients were being abused and denied the most basic services. The financial deals were made in such a fashion that members of the board of directors and close associates reaped enormous financial benefits. While this was going on, clients were being sexually abused, staff that spoke up were fired, and parents who disagreed were threatened to have their children excluded from service (Quality of Care, Fall 84).

*That Citizen Advocacy must be one of the advocacies that threatens the imperial entities the most is indicated by the fact that it is one of the most imperiled advocacy forms. For instance, how thoroughly Citizen Advocacy is disdained in human services was underlined yet once again by the 1983 publication of a book entitled Social Support Networks: Informal Healing in the Human Services, by two authors with high reputations (Whittaker & Garbino). It entirely failed to mention Citizen Advocacy, although CA had been around since 1969 (drawn to our attention by Genevieve Fairval).

*In one instance, human service authorities ruled that citizen advocates could visit their protégés residing in an agency residence, and could also take the protégés for trips into the community, but were not allowed to bring the protégés into their homes unless a home had first been approved by the state for home visits. Furthermore, the advocates were forbidden from bringing a client home to live there until the situation had first been ruled to be an "approved foster home."

*Yet another among the innumerable perversions of Citizen Advocacy are efforts to set up citizen advocates as monitors of the quality of the agencies that serve one's protégé. Systematic monitoring of services is desirable, but is not the primary--or even secondary--function of Citizen Advocacy. Such monitoring is the proper task of voluntary associations on behalf of devalued groups. Citizen advocates were never intended to be collectivized in the same sense as members of

voluntary associations, but to focus primarily upon their own individual protégé and his/her needs. Thus, they were never meant to function in any extensive sense like voluntary associations, or to replace them, or to take over their proper roles. Should a voluntary association be the governing body for a Citizen Advocacy service, then it should be this voluntary association itself that should perform those monitoring functions. Of course, citizen advocates might very well participate in such functions, but only if it does not displace or diminish their individual advocacy roles and activities.

*In San Diego, an advocacy body that called itself the Network Advocacy Group (NAG) renamed itself in 1989 as the Citizen Advocacy Network (CAN). Its mission statement said that "The Citizen Advocacy Network exists to work toward the creation of caring and competent communities that value the natural human dignity and diversity which exists amongst us where all people, regardless of support needs, can be self-advocates and lead fully integrated lives." This obviously is not CA, and the founder of CAN claimed never to have heard of Citizen Advocacy before (Source item from Zana Lutfiyya). Masquerading one advocacy form under another is always a bad sign.

*In agony, we read that the New Haven Regional Center in Connecticut, while operating all sorts of direct services, had begun to run a "Citizen Advocacy" program (CARC News, 19/85).

*Unfortunately, the CAPE instrument for the evaluation of Citizen Advocacy programs has been given an image degradation by the appearance of a Commonwealth AIDS Prevention and Education Program in Australia, which the powers that be refer to by the acronym CAPE in Australia (Link, 11/92).

*Compeer is a program with some resemblance to Citizen Advocacy, but which is safely under the control of the imperial shrink system. It recruits one-to-one volunteer "advocates" for people with mental problems, but tightly keeps them under shrink controls. Compeer was founded in Rochester, NY, just about the time the TIPS editor and father of Citizen Advocacy moved to New York State, as if to co-opt Citizen Advocacy developments there.

*We have often noted that Citizen Advocacy services have an extraordinarily difficult time getting funding, and that they would be apt to be more readily funded if they could be disguised as something else. One Citizen Advocacy activist came up with the idea of starting a "toys for sick and dying handicapped children Citizen Advocacy program," which would be a Citizen Advocacy service fronted by a service that raised funds for distributing specially adapted and equipped toys for physically impaired youngsters who are also sick or considered "dying." She thought that this would be an especially persuasive front, since any "toys for handicapped children" is already a powerful double whammy appeal, especially around Christmastime, and always gets lots of public support and donations. By adding the appeals of "sick children" and "dying children," two virtually sure-fire irresistible whammies are added. Of course, a big problem is that the Citizen Advocacy staff and board would probably be seduced into actually operating such a toys for handicapped sick and dying children program, and thus neglecting the Citizen Advocacy component.

Self-Help & Support Groups

Self-help and support groups are not advocacy bodies, unless they go beyond being supportive, or beyond promoting or enabling self-help. Such groups are a reflection of citizen activism and initiative, but can also be a sign of (a) civic breakdown and/or (b) craziness in society. Such groups become absurd when they form around the minutest splinter of concern, or actually stir up unhappiness in members.

*Thousands of organizations across the world have modelled themselves after Alcoholics Anonymous, usually also imitating the name. Some of them in recent years have been rather peculiar organizations, such as Impotency Anonymous, Catholics Anonymous, Fundamentalists

Anonymous, and so on. In all cases, the name is meant to communicate that the members either once had or still have a problem (indicated by the first name, i.e., being Catholic, Fundamentalist, or impotent), and that members consider the condition shameful enough not to want to be identified by last name.

*There now exists a self-help group called Emotions Anonymous.

*There are bald men stupid or duped enough to form their own support groups (Newsweek, 29/9/86). They hold their annual convention in Morehead (!) City, North Carolina. We venture the guess that one need not even be bald to be admitted, merely afraid of becoming bald.

*We have mentioned before the absurdity of creating action groups based on excessive divisioning of people's identities, such as Mothers Against Drunken Driving (MADD), which really should be Citizens Against Drunken Driving. Thus, one can almost imagine an association entitled Fathers Against Mothers Against Drunken Driving (FAMADD).

*In contrast to Mothers of Murdered Teenagers, there is Compassionate Friends, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in England in 1969 and since spread to other countries, that brings together grieving parents regardless of their ages or how their children died. But even here, we find perversions, such as members whose children died 10 and almost 20 years ago, and who might have handled their grief quite well if it had not been continuously stirred up by such narrowly focused groups.

*Unfortunately, there is an organization of "Parents of Twins with Disabilities," carrying to another absurd extreme the self-help group concept. Obviously, families who merely have one or two handicapped children need not apply.

*Among the peculiarly esoteric contemporary self-help groups is Lesbian Amazons, and one of lesbian daughters of alcoholics. At a feminist conference, there was a session on lesbian food allergies that was closed to non-lesbians, apparently the relevant assumptions including that lesbians have unique food allergies.

One Canadian lesbian group strangely enough calls itself FAKE (apparently standing for "feminists for all kinds of equality"), refer to themselves as FAKE women, and their placards announce that "FAKE Is Everyone's Reality" (Interim, 4/87).

*One is amazed to discover that one out of 8 American men is supposedly impotent. There are many causes, one of the big ones being alcoholism, smoking being also involved. Since self-help groups are being formed nowadays for virtually anything, we should not be surprised that Impotents Anonymous was formed in Washington, DC, in 1983, with a growing number of chapters across the country. As one spokesperson said, they were trying to get impotent men out of the closet. The organization is headquartered in Marysville, Tennessee, and its publicity encourages people to write there for information. If people knew what a cozy little town Marysville was, they might not be quite so certain that their impotence would remain anonymous there.

*Yet another step toward mechanized, derelationalized and even depersonalized sex is computer sex, called CompuSex. It can be played by subscribers to CompuServe, the country's largest computer network which has subscribers in the hundreds of thousands. Subscribers can exchange fantasy propositions at all times to each other, share their fantasy responses, and even engage in a form of computer group sex. Several hundred people are so addicted to this that they tune in every single night. Some function under sexy names such as Karen the Nympho. One wife left her husband because she found CompuSex better than the real thing, but when she then tried to make contact in the flesh with some of the other players, she found them disappointed in her or disappointing to her. As one does nowadays about things like that, she swiftly organized a support group for women with similar experiences and problems.

*As we can see, there are self-help or support groups for people who have too much or too big, and for people who have too little or too small. Why not for people whose "it" is just right? Don't they have troubles too?

*Yet another most peculiar self-help group consists of people conceived through artificial insemination who, like some adopted children, engage on a perpetual quest to find their biological fathers. Already the organization has chapters in several countries. One fear of some of these people is that they might commit incest with a sibling, which seems far-fetched even though some donors have fathered more than 100 children.

*Divisioning of people from each other has gone so far that a group in Seattle now issues a newsletter for grandparents of retarded children (The Ark, Winter 84).

*Unfortunately, there is now such a thing as Sarcastics Anonymous, whose members describe themselves as "recovering sarcastics" (AP in SHJ, 19/5/87; source item from Ann O'Connor). One young woman joined because her jocular style was not a social asset. "I walked home from a lot of dates. Men don't lust after funny women" (AP in SHJ, 19/5/87).

*Another modest proposal. Considering the vast number of voluntary associations and self-help groups that have been forming lately for every conceivable condition, it seems to us that the time has come to launch a Voluntary Association on behalf of Non-Existing Conditions (VANEC). This should have enormous appeal to people who consider themselves normal, or who have an affliction, but deny it--after all, there is a very vocal segment of the handicapped population that vigorously denies that it is either afflicted or victimized. They too should find membership in VANEC to be very uplifting. Perhaps one of the TIPS readers would like to take the leadership in this enterprise.

Societal Trends

*A Reflection by an Australian Visitor. Peter Millier from Australia spent 6 months with the TI in 1989-90 in order to learn SRV. In an interim report of his experiences, the following passages occurred (slightly edited).

"As well as being confused about external events, Americans are being forced to look inwards at themselves and their society and they do not like what they are seeing. Some are trying to pretend that this reality does not exist. However, people who are homeless, mentally ill, suffering from AIDS, elderly, young, intellectually disabled, are populating the streets of American cities in huge numbers, barely existing on handouts and suffering great humiliation and degradation in shelters. I have seen people with AIDS begging on Fifth Avenue outside the ultimate symbol of capitalism, the Trump Tower (Doonesbury has suggested it should be dismantled to counterbalance the breach of the Berlin Wall) and being shuffled away by an embarrassed black commissionaire. Times Square is a squalid sewer of human waste, an excrescence in our urban landscape which probably equals the squalor of the Middle Ages or the Third World.

"People are being warehoused (literally) in New York, Boston, Syracuse, Toronto. Darcy Elks tells of one place where 700 people spend the night after going through an entry ritual which was probably only equalled by the death camps. Such people are referred to by workers as SHPOSS. Not a newly coined Jewish word but simply standing for SubHuman Pieces of Shit!!

"How is this reality reflected in human services? Predictably, not very well. Apart from casting hundreds of thousands of mentally ill people onto the streets in the name of deinstitutionalization (indeed the mental health services and their apologists have almost foregone their moral right to exist), the prisons are overflowing and elderly people are being moved into residential settings at an alarming rate. Even the safeguard of catastrophic health insurance which was passed by Congress in 1989 to protect elderly people from the astronomical costs of illness has recently been repealed. Drugs and AIDS are ravaging the youth of America, and human services have simply given up trying to address this, or are rejecting people who seek assistance. The objectification of people and the corporatization of services continues apace. Privatization is very

much a reality here as governments of all complexions abrogate their responsibilities. Human service bureaucrats and professionals are flourishing.

"The sad, sombre truth is that human services, as an expression of society's will to be caring and compassionate, have simply given up the struggle and are focussing on what is easy and comfortable. Even more sinister is the view that democracy is dead in America--that is, if you consider democracy to be more than the ballot box, an economic democracy which as Leonard Wolf observed means 'getting rid of poverty, seeing to a nation's housing, medical care, unemployment insurance, old age pensions, universal education.' How ironic then that it should be this 'dead' democracy which is being hailed as the victor as the equally corrupt communist system crumbles in Europe.

"The foregoing is a difficult backdrop against which to make personal plans or to even dare to suggest how others should conduct themselves. Indeed, one recent writer has suggested that not only the mental health system, but humanity itself, has lost its claim to continue. Humanity, in his words, has 'desanctified' itself. Clearly, we are living in a time when we are confronting not just our own humanity but also our destiny.

"One thing which I have learned, however, is the power and coherency of individual action. A significant number of people here in the US and Canada are committing themselves to individuals in a variety of ways, most of which are voluntary and none of which could be considered profitable in a material sense. Standing by people who are poor and devalued is about the only thing that does make any sense to me at the moment as I try to grasp the extent to which evil and suffering are part of the reality in our society."

*One of the participants at an American conference of city mayors said in 1/91 that in a way, SCUD missiles had been falling on American cities for many years, and there had been no response, but once SCUD missiles fell abroad, vast resources were marshalled to combat them.

*We were struck by the following triple incoherency. An article in the Syracuse Herald Journal (23/8/94) said that there were terrible things wrong with rural America, but now, thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts, rural towns would receive help through a center located in the City of Syracuse, which is a pretty awful place and probably in infinitely worse shape than the rural communities that this urban center would try to straighten out by means of the arts.

*In a mere 2 years between 1991-93, some 50 Chinese crime groups have managed to smuggle tens of thousands of Chinese into the US, charging between \$20,000-35,000 per head. In some instances, the people are told (by the smugglers or their accomplices) after their arrival in the US that they have to pay back what they owe, and are put on a treadmill of essentially permanent debtorship. Many of them are forced to enter criminal activities, and earlier experience has shown that many of those who do remain in crime for life (e.g., Time, 21/6/93). It is quite possible that in the not-too-distant future, Chinese crime gangs will replace the Mafia, and will be even more difficult to penetrate than the Mafia was.

The "Golden Venture," filled with about 300 gullible Chinese and controlled by extortionist gangsters that eventually dumped its human cargo on a New York beach, was certainly a ship of fools of sorts. Those who survived the harrowing journey of 114 days arrived mentally crazed.

*Everybody has been talking about illegal aliens streaming into the US from Mexico, but hardly anyone ever mentions that there are an estimated 350,000 Americans living illegally in Mexico.

*Societal offenses often come back in very unexpected ways to haunt their perpetrators. Here is how a combination of an insane immigration policy and a callous disregard of homelessness revenged itself. A Chinese immigrant who spoke hardly any English, and who became homeless virtually upon arrival in California, was camping out in the mountains in the Fall of 1993, two months after his arrival, and started himself a little fire because he was cold. The fire got out of control and burned 5,500 acres, 115 homes and a few people, making world-wide headlines (SHJ, 29/10/93).

*A new development is ordinary hotels in the US beginning to construct highest security meeting rooms for groups that have things to hide when they meet (CC, 5&6/90).

*"African-Americans" are no less schizophrenic about social affairs than anyone else. They voted 70% that Louis Farrakhan "says things the country should hear," and 63% that he speaks the truth, and only about 20% thought he was "anti-semitic" (Time, 28/2/94).

*Two-thirds of all lawyers in the world are unfortunately working in the US, and yet worse, about a third of them have only just gotten started within the last 5-10 years. The good news is the appearance of novels (e.g., The Pelican Brief) in which lawyers are the evil protagonists or even killers, and where beautiful female young law students are rescued in the nick of time from a law career by men who love them despite who they are. Also, the most vivid and explicit scene of dinosaur-eats-human in the film "Jurassic Park" has a lawyer being ingested head first by a T.rex.

Government-Related News

*Reality has been catching up with utopianism for some years in Scandinavia. By 1994, government expenditures in Sweden exceeded revenue by 50%, and the national debt stood at \$178 billion (Science, 31/3/95).

*In the 4&6/94 TIPS issue, we noted that some of the people President Clinton brought into the government might end up bringing him down through their scandalous behavior, and we mentioned Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders as a likely candidate--but somewhat to our surprise, in 12/94 he fired her first before she could do any more harm to him. This aggravated the liberal media very much who portrayed her as a victim of her candor. But nothing was learned, as evidenced by the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Elder's replacement, who obviously has difficulties telling the truth, i.e., who lacks candor.

*On a typical day when the US Congress is in session, more than 60 hearings are held by its 250 committees and subcommittees. The Defense Department alone must answer to 100 committees, must give an average of 14 hours of testimony each congressional day, and each such testimony requires weeks of preparation by oodles of people. The Defense Department must also submit three congressionally-mandated reports daily, each of which consumes about 1,000 work hours and costs about \$50,000 to prepare. In order to transact its bureaucracy, Congress employs 50,000 people, of whom 20,000 are professionals, or triple the number of 20 years earlier. Congressional staff has grown six times faster than the US population since 1970. The costs of running Congress have also grown six times the rate of the cost of living since 1946. At the same time, Congress has not appeared to have improved in oversight or control over things (SHJ, 7 March 92).

*In New York State, 37,000 bills were introduced into the legislature in the 1990-91 session, of which only 4.5% became law (Syracuse Herald American, 11 July 93). No wonder nothing works anymore.

*The profound conflicts of interest that prevail within US regulatory agencies are in good part brought about by the fact that they are staffed by people thoroughly identified with the sectors they are supposed to regulate. The conflict is also evidenced by the fact that when workers leave the regulatory agencies, they readily find much higher paying jobs in the private sector in which they often do the very thing that they are supposed to fight as regulators, though they may not have fought them very hard. This was dramatically brought out by several job changes in early 1989: the chairwoman of the International Trade Commission took on the job of representing private foreign companies in US trade disputes; a lawyer on the Federal Trade Commission who supervised federal anti-trust efforts took a job helping firms fight government anti-trust actions; a deputy commissioner of the FDA that regulates drugs took a job with a public affairs firm that represents drug companies; and a supervisor of federal enforcement of hazardous waste laws took a job as a

lawyer to represent companies defending themselves against the government (Newsweek, 6/2/89).

*It has come to light (Health Letter, 9/93) that the American Civil Liberties Union has been accepting huge subsidies from the tobacco industry--\$500,000 from Philip Morris alone--without informing its members, and that it has acted vigorously to protect the interests of the tobacco industry in Congress. Considering that about 20 years ago, the ACLU made a death alliance (via its support of abortion), we should probably not be surprised.

*The new Airforce One plane for the US president ended up costing nearly a billion dollars, plus \$6000 each hour aloft. Everybody is embarrassed about this, but nobody did anything about it.

*In 6/91, the TV documentary "Prime Time Live" said that the US Secretary of Defense threw his support behind the development of B2 bombers that would eventually cost \$160 billion(!) after being shown a mock-up of the plane--which he apparently took for the real thing.

*In 7/91, it was discovered that about 3,000 of the premier fighter plane of the US (about a third of these flown by other nations), the F-16, had cracks in their wings that might cost more than \$1 billion to repair. This underlies once again the vulnerability of extremely complex systems.

*In 1994, George Pataki campaigned for the governorship of New York on a promise of budget-cutting. No sooner was he elected than he submitted a budget to the legislature that was \$750 million higher than the year before (SHJ, 24/4/95).

*In 1991, 44% of all personal income in the US went to some kind of tax (SHJ, 17/12/94). That is a lot of money for getting so little of value in return.

*Nearly half the taxes levied by the county in which Syracuse is located have to be spent in order to satisfy state and federal mandates. This is certainly a violation of the principle of subsidiarity which demands that problems be addressed at the lowest level of social organization and of technology.

*In 1994, the US government began for the first time to distribute tax forms in Spanish. We wonder what the rules are under which things like this are decided. Since more people in the world speak Chinese than anything else, why not Chinese tax forms? Why not tax forms in all the languages of all mother tongues in the US?

*It seems hard to believe, but the IRS says that 14% of all US citizens who failed to file tax returns in 1992 were tax professionals who help other people with their tax returns (Newsweek, 19/4/93).

*US taxpayers are supposed to be able to get free tax advice from the federal government by calling 1-800-829-1040 (the last four digits coincide with the code number of the basic US tax form). As an education in how supposedly freely available information hotlines work, we advise our readers to try to call that number. Indeed, we advise them to go to their local phone book, turn to the section that lists any government offices and their many free hotlines, and try to call any of them, and see what happens.

*We have seen ads that encourage people to "cash in on the government seizure program" and obtain such bargains as a \$50,000 boat for only \$10. The US government often seizes property for delinquent taxes, and auctions it off. Unfortunately, while this may result in a bargain for the buyer, it also means the buyer is profiting from someone else's loss--often a painful loss--and often profiting from people who are being persecuted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because they have

refused to pay taxes on principle, not because they are cheating on their tax returns. Further, the IRS often lets confiscated property intentionally go for a very low price in order to punish and terrorize the tax offender.

*The fewer people live in the District of Colombia, the more people it hires in its government bureaucracy. In 1994, it had 570,000 inhabitants and 42,000 people working for the District (Time, 13/2/95).

*Each working day, about 26,000 documents, some of them covering thousands of pages, are "classified" by US government officials, either into the categories of confidential, secret, or top secret. Some classifications are even more secret than top secret, but what the code name is is also a classified secret. By 1992, the US government had 1 million classified documents (SHA, 2 Aug. 92).

*Studies on how to reform something about US government virtually never get implemented (Newsweek, 16/8/93).

*In Washington, DC, there are twice as many rats as people, which should surprise no one (AW, 20/2/92). We suspect there are also an awful lot of rat-type people.

*One probably has to read a foreign newspaper to get an admission, and even a headline, that "bloodshed in US capital getting out of hand" (Globe & Mail, 22/10/90). The murder rate there is one of the highest in the world, being close to one person per 1000 inhabitants per year. Just before leaving office in disgrace the first time, the cocaine-addicted Mayor Barry himself proposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew, plus military roadblocks if that did not work. However, he also said in 4/89 that "Outside of the killings, (Washington, DC has) one of the lowest crime rates in the country," and that the capital is "unequivocally and absolutely" safe.

*In 11/90, the Bush administration announced that the White House was planning to promulgate a "revolutionary" program to rescue the nation's crumbling cities (SHJ, 20/11/90). Have any readers, or anyone else, seen it?

Miscellaneous News

*In 10/93, for the first time anywhere in the US, we saw signs posted all over a public building in very water-rich New Hampshire that said, "Don't drink from tap. Use bottled water machine." We were struck about how blasé people were about the sign, and when asked, they did not appear to even realize that the warning probably had to do with micro-organism pollution of the public water supply. It is thus that people can see one sign of collapse of the infrastructure and society after another being added to their environment without it ever sinking in how, and to what, these things are adding up. Since 10/93, we have run across several more instances of the above nature.

*Both people with cellular phones, as well as people using pacemakers and/or wheelchairs with computerized components, are warned that cellular phones can wreak havoc with either. Wheelchairs may become uncontrollable as to speed or direction. One cellular phone set off a wheelchair to run over a cliff, nearly killing its occupant. Others have rushed wheelchairs into traffic. Thus, people in wheelchairs or with pacemakers should warn everybody who approaches them not to carry cellular phone, and they should try to avoid roads where drivers of many cars may be using their cellular phones.

*The Promise Keepers men's craze cult plans to assemble a million men around the phallic symbol of the Washington monument in DC in 1997.

Resources

*The Concept of "Personalism": A New Resource & a New Workshop. People who have attended the TI's workshop on "How to Function With Personal Moral Coherency in a Disfunctional (Human Service) World" since June 1992 will remember that that workshop dealt with the "first pillar of personalism: the value of human life," and the "second pillar of personalism: assuming personal moral responsibility." People who have attended the TI's 3- and 4-day Sanctity of Life workshops since mid-1992 will also recognize that the value of each human life is a principle that the TI teaches as one of the primary defenses against deathmaking. Readers may thus be interested to know that the Unity Kitchen Community of the Catholic Worker of Syracuse, NY (of which the TIPS editor is a "base community" member) has recently completed, and made available, a 21-page, single-spaced document--the fruit of approximately 7 years' labor--entitled Christian Personalism: A Manifesto. This document explains how the concept of Christian "personalism" is understood by the authors of the manifesto, some of the history of the concept, the role it has played in the Catholic Worker movement, and two of its major implications: the unique, unquantifiable, and indivisible value of each and every individual human being; and the importance of assuming personal moral responsibility in one's life. This is especially important vis-à-vis government and other authorities, or whatever forces would absolve one from doing so. Those who have attended the aforementioned workshops may be especially interested in obtaining a copy. Write to: Unity Kitchen, 385 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202. The manifesto is free, but since Unity Kitchen depends totally on alms for its support, donations are gladly accepted.

On 25 January 1996, the TI will give a one-day workshop in Framingham, Massachusetts, which will be entirely devoted to the topic of personalism and its implications. While the TI has previously offered one-day and one-and-a-half-day workshops that had "personalism" in their titles, none of these had been based on a lengthy exposition of what the TI has called the "two pillars of personalism," mentioned above. Instead, these workshops had emphasized only one aspect of the second pillar, namely, the importance of voluntary, unpaid, freely-given engagements with lowly and devalued people. This workshop will give primacy to the two pillars themselves, and allow as much discussion on these as the majority of the audience desires. On the next day, there will be a follow-up event reserved for people with a solid knowledge of Citizen Advocacy (CA) and a commitment to it, who have attended the January 25 "personalism" event. This follow-up will look at some advanced CA issues, including an exploration of the implications of personalism to Citizen Advocacy supporters, and especially CA office staff. The point will be made that in an age of great futility, it is vitally important that Citizen Advocacy staff not only embrace a personalist philosophy, but also convey it to (potential) advocates as best as they can. This should go a long way toward "inoculating" both CA staff and citizen advocates against discouragement and "burn-out." Information on these workshops can be gotten from the TI, but people who want to register must do so with Arc of Franklin County, 111 Summer St., Greenfield, MA 01301, phone 508/379-1620. On 24 January 1996, the TI will also give a one-day workshop that provides an overview of social advocacy. The sponsor and site are the same.

*In the July-September 1993 issue of Citizen Advocacy Forum, Wolf Wolfensberger published an annotated bibliography on Citizen Advocacy and related topics, grouped according to topic and suitable readership. He has revised, expanded, updated and reorganized that reading list, and plans to do so on an ongoing basis. Copies can be obtained post-free by surface mail for US \$10 within North America, and US \$12 from overseas; for air mail add another \$2.

*Here is an interesting new book: Specht, H., & Courtney, H. E. (1995). Unfaithful angels: How social work has abandoned its mission. New York: Free Press.